Table of Contents

1. **Allegiances**
2. *Prologue*
3. *Chapter* 1
4. *Chapter* 2
5. *Chapter* 3
6. *Chapter* 4
7. *Chapter* 5
8. *Chapter* 6
9. *Chapter* 7
10. *Chapter* 8
11. *Chapter* 9
12. *Chapter* 10
13. *Chapter* 11
14. *Chapter* 12
15. *Chapter* 13
16. *Chapter* 14
17. *Chapter* 15
18. *Chapter* 16
19. *Chapter* 17 (TW⚠)
20. *Chapter* 18
21. *Chapter* 19
22. *Chapter* 20
23. *Chapter* 21
24. *Chapter* 22
25. *Chapter* 23
26. *Chapter* 24
27. *Chapter* 25
28. *Epilogue*

Allegiances

BeachClan *This clan lives near the ocean bay in the eastern side, bordering MurkClan and SaguaroClan, they specialize in swimming and fishing.*

Leader: Shingle'star - A slender, gray she-cat with spots that looked like pebbles. She has dark brown eyes.

Deputy: Dune'gale - An athletic built tom with a cream-colored fur, he is a tabby shown from the stripes all over her fur.

Medicine Cat: Conch'song - A small, white tom with lightly gray leopard spots all over her body, and brindled, brown markings that are reminded of a shell.

Warriors:

Crab'snap - A dark, brownish, ginger she-cat that looks like the color of red, like a crab. She is large, muscular, and portrays in a masculine approach of her appearance.

Palm'ivy - A dark, brown striped tom who is taller than the majority of the clan. He has green eyes and long, curled claws that help him in climbing. He is the mentor of Kelp'paw

Sea'jewel - A dark gray she-cat with blue eyes that are reminded of gems laid all over the beach.

Aurora'shore - A shiny, tan colored tom with yellow eyes.

Seagull'beak - A white she-cat with orange spots and yellow eyes. She has unruly fur and slenderness of her body. She is the mentor of Tide'paw

Coral'flash - A pale, cream-colored tom with strong agility with the use of his slender legs. He has light gray spots all over his face, body, and small brown dots.

Bright'shell - A light ginger tom with yellow eyes and swirly markings all over his back. He is the mentor of Sand'paw

Apprentice

Sand'paw- A darker cream-colored she-cat who is the younger sister of Dune'gale.

Tide'paw - A dark gray tom with light blue eyes. (Russian Blue)

Kelp'paw - A thin, tortoiseshell tom with mattered, curly fur.

Kits

Turtle'kit - A dark brown she-cat with light brown, shell-looking markings on her back.

Gravel'kit - A gray tom with white and dark gray spots all over his body. He has green eyes.

Pebble'kit - A lighter gray tom who is the twin brother of Gravel'kit, thus making the two look almost the same except that he shares yellow eyes.

Queens

Shell'wave - A dark brown she-cat who looks similar to her daughter, Turtle'kit. But the markings are white, and she has a freckled body. Turtle'kit is the only one that survived the litter.

Cliff'shrike - A dark gray she-cat with dappled, dark gray spots. She is the mother of Gravel'kit and Pebble'kit.

Elders

Rocky'spear - A tall, brown sphinx tom with sharp, copper eyes.

Sunset'ember (You didn't see the original name 👁👁). - A light ginger she-cat with yellow eyes.

MurkClan 🌲 *This clan lives near the marshlands, close to the ocean. They specialize in ambushing skills, and wisdom. They are*

west of CavernClan.

Leader: Marsh'star - A groggy, looking grayish-brown tom who is massive in size. He has dark brown eyes.

Deputy: Pond'hollow - A dark gray she-cat with messy, brindled stripes, and scars all over her body.

Medicine Cat: River'lily - A brown torbie she-cat with pale green eyes.

Warriors

Mangrove'pool - A tall, broad-built tom with dirty brown pelt that has brindled markings.

Meadow'rain - A small, dark gray she-cat that looks almost blue. She has small light gray spots that are reminded of rain. She is the mentor of Big'paw

Sage'spark - A black and gray candle flame tabby tom with pale green eyes. He mentors Moss'paw.

Flood'fall - A dark brown tom with visible black stripes and hints of light brown all over his body. He has scars on his eyes.

Toad'hop - A sudden grayish-cream colored she-cat with bulged eyes that makes her look intimidating to most.

Bog'tumble - A pale brown tom with a malnourished body, he barely has any fur left.

Apprentice

Mud'paw - A spiky furred, dark bronze tom with fierce, green eyes.

Moss'paw - A gray Sokoke marked she-cat with large black stripes.

Mushroom'paw - A heavily spotted, dark cream tom who is thick furred.

Bush'paw - A she-cat with shaggy fur and a gray tortoise shell fur

that is darker in color.

Kits

N/A

Queens

Brook'stem - A simple, fluffy gray she-cat who is expecting a litter. Her mate is Flood'fall.

Elders

Crocodile'teeth - A dark-gold she-cat who is large in size and muscular on the arms.

Pine'leap - A brown, tawny, slender she-cat.

Sorrel'creek - A brownish-dark ginger tom with bushy fur that covers most of his eyes.

CavernClan *This clan lives in a large mountain cave next to the valley that splits both SaguaroClan on the northeastern side.*

Leader: Stone'star - A muscular, light cream, blue-eyed tom.

Deputy: High'sight - A gray tom with dark gray spots all over his body.

Medicine Cat: Ivory'hiss - A gray torbie she-cat with faint markings and orange eyes.

Warriors

Snow'falcon - A shaggy, fast tom with strong legs. He is a ragdoll cat with noticeable brown markings of his face, body, and tail. He is the mentor of Eagle'paw.

Cloud'scream - A gray and white piebald she-cat with a chubby body, but good in strength. She is the mentor of Crust'paw.

Kestrel'shade - A black and orange tortoise shell she-cat with a hint of white on his paws.

Ravine'trout - A lean, gray she-cat with black and white marbled markings. She is the mentor of Opal'paw.

Alpine'growl - A dark gray, mackerel tabby tom with copper eyes. He is the mentor of Peak'paw.

Wolf'haze - A gray and black chimera tom with blue eyes and a white underfur.

Gorge'hawk - A dark ginger tortoise shell she-cat with white brindled markings. She is the mentor of Big'paw.

Oak'climb - A brown tom with marbled black markings and steady muscles fit for climbing, as well as his curled claws. He is the mentor of Boulder'paw.

Colossal'leap - A large gray color point Siamese tom with curly and shaggy fur.

Apprentice

Boulder'paw - A broad, muscular gray tom with large dark gray spots and curled shape ears.

Peak'paw - A blotched brown tabby tom with gray eyes.

Opal'paw - A shiny, furred white she-cat with orange and black tiny flecks from her fur.

Crust'paw - A blotched, charcoal tabby tom with a color point mask.

Big'paw - The twin sister of Boulder'paw, she is lighter gray and has white spots and curled ears. She is also decently large in size.

Eagle'paw - A dark brown tom with grizzled markings and has swift legs for speed.

Kits

Cougar'kit - A tan she-cat with sudden markings and tiny dots on her body.

Spring'kit - Same color as his mother and Cougar'kit, but has no markings.

Cedar'kit - Same color but has tabby markings and long ears.

Queens

Gail'sprint - A dark gray marbled she-cat with white tiny freckles and spots all over her body. She is expecting kits.

Lynx'tumble - A tan tortoise shell she-cat with lynx markings. Her kits are Cougar'kit, Spring'kit, and Cedar'kit.

Elders

N/A

SaguaroClan🌵 *This clan lives in the chaparral region north east of the mountains. They specialize in teamwork and problem solving.*

Leader: Ember'star - A dark tan tom with green eyes. He has spiny, mattered fur to his tail, and all of his limbs.

Deputy: Cactus'bite- A dark bronze she-cat with one blind eye, and scars all over her body. She had dark brown brindled markings on her back and reaching to her belly.

Medicine Cat: Primrose'dawn - A tan, cream-colored tom with blotched stripes.

Warriors

Dry'buzzard - A smoky gray sphinx tom who is the tallest of his clan.

Adder'burr - A hissy, dark tan Lykoi she-cat with long fangs peeking from her muzzle.

Jerboa'dart - A dark tan, slender tom with a black spot over his back. He has a long muzzle and ears.

Fern'flame - A dark brown, chocolate tortoise shell she-cat with

yellow eyes. She is the mate of Ember'star

Maroon'flint - A dark ginger tom with dappled spots of white. He mentors Owl'paw.

Fox'tail - A pale ginger tom who is the brother of Maroon'flint. He has a fluffy tail and long ears.

Vulture'glide - A large, brown color point tom with hazel eyes.

Scorch'teeth - A dark gray blotched tabby she-cat with copper-colored eyes. She mentors Quail'paw.

Apprentice

Owl'paw - A dark brown, slender mackerel tabby tom with green eyes.

Quail'paw - A dark gray she-cat with small white dots and some light gray splotches all over her body.

Kits

Lichen'kit - A tawny black she-cat with white and gray splotches all over.

Lizard'kit - A slender, pure black tom.

Coyote'kit - A blackish-gray tom with long, distinct ears and a long muzzle.

Queens

Zephyr'runner - A ticked black tabby with white furred limbs. She is the mother of Lichen'kit, Lizard'kit, and Coyote'kit.

Elders

Marigold'sage - A cream-colored she-cat with blotched stripes.

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Loners
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Red'fang - A brown, red-eyed tabby Maine coon tom. He is muscular and has dark brown braided stripes all over his body. He also has white socks and a small white tear on his throat and muzzle. His mate is Dani. (PROTAG) (COMIC!Miguel inspired.)

Blaze'light - The brother of Red'fang, he is nearly the same height. He is a light ginger Maine coon tom with fiery orange eyes. He has flowers and leaves stuck onto his mattered fur. He has sharp ears and large braided stripes on his body. His (FIRST) mate is Nash.

Dani - A brown long-haired tuxedo she-cat with pale green eyes. She is the mate of Red'fang. She has a scar on her left eye.

Nash - An agile, slender cinnamon brown she-cat with orange eyes and subtle stripes. Her mate is Blaze'light.

Jade - A green-eyed, pudgy charcoal Maine coon with a long fluffy tail. She has a crescent marking on her forehead. (RAHHH NEW DESIGN)

Jacob - A tall, scarred, tuxedo tom with copper eyes. He has two scars that crosses together between his eyes.

Others

Bloom'moss - A StarClan she-cat who has a pale cream-colored pelt with blotched, pale brown stripes all over her body. Her front paws are white.

Rogues

Ice'watcher - A silver, heavily scarred muscular tabby with dark gray stripes and blue eyes. He is the son of Stone'star.

Cut - A white and ginger Turkish Van tom with blue eyes. He has a short bobtail and a crooked jaw.

Eruption - A long-haired, dark ginger tom with orange eyes and a scarred muzzle.

Mamba - A slim, black lanky tom with yellow eyes and a long muzzle.

Panther - A dark gray tom with green eyes and a long tail.

Prologue

It felt like he was drowning.

His breath was taken away when Summit'rush slashed with throat out and left him bleeding.

The tom thought that he was given a moment of peace to his mind, not to hear the voice of criticism from others that were below him. The deputy thought he could get off scot-free from what he had done to him.

However, it only backfired to an extreme amount that cost the fool's life. The ringing noises of the red light shooting into skies never left his ears. The change was the only remnant of that forbidden memory, **the sun marking**, leaving a burning reminder. He could never forgive himself for letting him go, and he had made a grave mistake of leaving what he called home... or as he thought.

His eyes were half-shut, as if he was afraid of opening them. At least the lights in the barn were dim, but sometimes he wished he was blind. The area is empty, only leaving him to be alone and brooding like usual. The weight of CavernClan is on his back now. Sitting in the entrance and watching the wind pass by, Bloom'moss appears behind him, with her body moving like waves of lake water.

"Aren't you a bundle of sunshine." Her voice echoes between his sharp ears, causing the tom to lower his head and snarled. "Weren't you supposed to be watching over the little brother?" He mumbles, seeing Bloom'moss now sitting next to him. "You can't be angry at the cat who cares for you. You're lucky you know that?" She leans her head over his shoulder, bothering him. "Of course, I am." The tom rolls his eyes. He gave a glare at the ghost, revealing his scarlet-colored eyes for the first time. "I'm just not in the mood for jokes and giggles. This is serious."

"Yes, yes." Bloom'moss sighs, her head hovering midway towards

the ground. "The ol' mighty Red'fang takes a fall. Like a sun setting into the drowning place." She presses her head against his hip, her white eyes now focusing on him in an endearing way. "Shut up." Red'fang hisses. "That tom was ridden with jealousy. I can see it from his eyes the moment he left that cave for patrol."

"Is that why? I mean... it's only the first few sunrises, yet I can't find contact to the stars anymore..." Bloom'moss looks above her. The thick fog covered the skies. It was even hard to tell if it was night or not. The stars never appeared as they used to. The sun was never there in the first place, so that added onto the oddity of the territory, and the temperatures had dropped intensely. It was a **dry leaf-bare** that left the territory scarce with prey and water. The wind hits his face, the amounts of hay flew around him, getting stuck onto his bloody stained fur. He lifts his muzzle slightly as his prolonged fangs reveal itself.

He took a good look in the reflection of a shattered glass stuck on the wooden floor. To his own personal fear, he didn't see himself anymore. He wasn't the praised warrior for his brains and his strength. He wasn't the all-time 'favorite' of the leader.

Red'fang only saw a monstrous being that lived within him. Bloom'moss saw his expression, which caused her to be worried. "Is there anything I could do? I'm not much of a big help but..."

"Yeah, and what will you do?" His voice left bitter, his red eyes flickering.

He could feel the pain coming from his muscles, and his heart racing constantly as he is reminded by a failed attempt, the voice of Summit'rush haunting his every move, he doesn't even know if he is truly alive or not coming from how his screams were abruptly cut when falling off the cliff and into the pitch darkness. He couldn't be at peace knowing that the entire territory is now after him. The ghost didn't give any word to him. Really, she also didn't know what to do. Without StarClan, nothing was worth living anymore.

His ears did move from a noise of a similar voice. His nose wiggled when he smelt the scent of his brother, and another she-cat who was his mate of twelve moons. The guilt ached his heart, seeing her

eye. It was something he could never forgive himself for, even if she had tried so hard just to make him happy in tough times after all.

There was no time to sit with his thoughts, from the looks of their faces, things might've already become ugly. "**BROTHER!**" The ginger tom cried, approaching him with a bloody, scraped shoulder and a limping leg. He panted heavily as he collapsed in front of Red'fang. The older brother instantly went to help his brother. "Clan cats! Everywhere!" He wheezes, his claws were still unsheathed, he could hear Dani shouting at the two in the background. "Who did this to you? What in StarClan were you all doing?" He clings onto his body; his arms stretched and reached over to the pile of herbs that were nearby. Dani would answer her mate's question.

"Nash decided to start a fight with CavernClan. That's what!" She retorted, her body left tense from the running, and her heart was pounding out of anger and fear. "You have to go and help her!" She begged to the tom, her tail lashing onto the walls. Red'fang was focused on gathering the herbs in front of him and fixing the wounds that were caused by the clan members. His unsheathed claws scraped the wood on the ground, frustrated. The constant nagging didn't make anything better. "You know what they'll do to someone like her? They'll do horrible things like they've always done to their prisoners!" Dani paced from left to right; her words were loud and clear to get her point across.

"You think I'd go a full-on war with just about twenty of them and three of us?" Red'fang hisses at her, whilst using some herbs to prevent hyperventilation, and fed those to his brother. "It can't work like that; I'm not risking you all to be under the paws of Stone'star. He's already been a thorn on my hind for a while." He watches his brother slowly consume the leaves, Blaze'light's eyes were half-lidded. There was a hint of regret in his expression. "I tried, Red'fang. Those cowards were grouped together like foxes. I had **no** choice but to run."

"I... I can see that." Red'fang nodded, her shoulders were slouched from the exhaustion, and the mental toll that it took to see his close ones suffer. "I don't know if we'll see her again in one piece."

"So, go on and save her." Dani pressures him, her expression

hardening as she stands up to the tom. "She won't live long if we sit around here and do **nothing.**"

A call of the hawk is heard above them. The stress was evident on his face as he continued to fix the wounding of his brother.

Red'fang found himself in a conflicted position. The voices of his mate continued to linger, but the thoughts were louder this time. He promised never to show himself into the face of the enemies from the mountains, but seeing the face of his brother and the pressure coming from Dani.

He had no other option.

Chapter 1

The clouds were gray and gloomy like always.

River'lily, the medicine cat of MurkClan, roamed the tall grasses of the Marshlands looking for viable sources of herbs. Some cats have started to get sick from an unknown cough. River'lily was able to volunteer her work in curing her clan and willingly left during a small storm. Her brown fur was touched from the soft rain drops landing on her back. She traveled discreetly and quickly. She wished to get this over with before the storms could get worse. It's possible that a flood could occur, which commonly happens in this swamp. But that was the least of her worries.

She was more concerned about what had happened to an ex-mate. Despite their past, she still couldn't help but be worried. River'lily hoped that this small little hunt of herbs could distract her, but the other side wanted to know if StarClan was aware of what had happened those sunrises ago.

She did see the beach from the marshlands, where BeachClan warriors were hunting far from their camp.

Her ears fluttered, hearing the rustling of a bush. She turned around, her leaf pouch around her neck gently rocking from the sharp movement. A small mew is heard, with yellow eyes peeking, as well as his paws. It was Mushroom'paw, an apprentice of the same clan as River'lily's.

The medicine cat screeched, followed by a hiss. Her pupil went dilated until it went back into its normal circular form. River'lily had a look of irritation staring at Mushroom'paw, who was too shy to even approach her. "Don't scare me like that." The medicine cat scolded. "You would've gotten hurt." She had a broad, straightforward voice that can turn strict if needed. Mushroom'paw crawled out of the bush, and he lowered his head. "I'm sorry." He spoke. "I was looking for you. There was a meeting you missed, and I got assigned to be your apprentice, a medicine apprentice, to be

exact."

River'lily became annoyed, Marsh'star haven't reason her with this decision. Especially during an important time when the elders and some of the warriors had gotten sick. The other side of her felt neutral. She needed another paw to help her and to kill the stress she had. She huffed, making a final decision. "If that's the case," she says. "Then you must help me gather some herbs. It is important that we should overstock our storage so the cats can get the help they need." She leans her head close to him, judging him silently with her bold, pale green eyes, just glaring.

Mushroom'paw nodded, he looked terrified of River'lily, but at the same time, he was excited. He had always thought of becoming a medicine cat. He couldn't ruin this chance now. River'lily stepped away, she gave Mushroom'paw one more look until she turned around, expecting her new apprentice to follow. The shy apprentice followed behind her tail, walking in a fast, anxious way. It had gotten silent now.

The birds chirped, the adders rattled, and hiss. The two cats had to be mindful of what they were going so they wouldn't accidentally step on one.

Mushroom'paw wanted to initiate a conversation, hoping his mentor could at least light up a little.

"So," the tom began to start. "Did.. you hear about Flood'fall becoming a father?"

"Yes, yes, I heard." River'lily nodded. As she traveled through the tall grass, Mushroom'paw looked at the ground as he followed his mentor.

"Flood'fall and Brook'stem seems to be happy." The apprentice says. "But honestly? I don't see the appeal in Flood'fall."

River'lily's pupils moved to Mushroom'paw's direction. "You don't?" She asked, her voice sounding slightly intrigued. The apprentice looked at his mentor before turning his head away, looking at the ground. "He acts like a dirt every time, and he used to bully me

back when I was a kit." There was a gruff in his voice that tells his resentment towards the warrior. River'lily didn't really care for what he was saying anyway, but his way of explaining did intrigue her.

"He's quite unpleasant then." The medicine cat commented. Mushroom'paw raises his head, looking at her with admiration. She was the only one that agreed with him. During their walk, River'lily spots a small group of yellow flowers growing below an old tree that sat in a decently sized land among the shallow swamp waters. They were called coltsfoot.

"Get those flowers." River'lily ordered. This was going to be the first lesson of becoming a medicine cat. Mushroom'paw scurried across the waters and ran up to the small hill. He leaned his head toward the flower and grabbed the leaves using his jaw. He took a mouthful and clumsily ran towards his mentor and spitting it back in the pouch. The pouch was overflowed by other herbs.

But a feeling of rain simmered above them. The weather was starting to get worse, ever since the suns had faded away. Mushroom'paw could smell the rain ahead of him and the rumbling of storms above the mountains. Despite being the first day of training her apprentice, she cared too much for him to stay out with her and to get wet. "It's best that you meet me in camp." River'lily spoke to the apprentice, with a hint of her usual strictness, but also with worry. "I can't let you get caught in the storm with me."

Mushroom'paw pinned his ears, and he got upset. "Can I stay and help you a little longer? You'll catch a cough during the rain!"

River'lily wasn't changing her answer soon. "No." Her voice is loud but firm.

The apprentice huffed, lowering his head in frustration. "Okay." He said and just turned around the other way, leaving his mentor behind. he was disappointed to have his herb training end so shortly. River'lily watched Mushroom'paw disappear into the tall grass. Her body jolted, hearing the strike of thunder. She heard the quick footsteps of Mushroom'paw taking off running. The rain instantly pouring onto her fur.

She then bolted just as her apprentice left. She could feel the tense winds rushing over the marshlands, the old tree creaking. The tall grass moving and making scratchy noises stressed the she-cat. The dreams of chaos she was having felt true. Everything had got so rough after the incident of the deputy dying from crushed rocks, and what the visions believed could be the end times. It was only just starting. River'lily raced across the muddy territory and forming floods just to make to her camp safely.

Unfortunately, she lost a few herbs on the way. Her paws pounced on the ground, causing a mess of mud staining her fur and her face. Her paws thumped against the ground; a rush of adrenaline rushed to her heart that sounded like a march of drums roaming around her.

She spotted the flat, grassy and watery terrain of MurkClan. She slowed her walking, and the rain calmed its pouring. Everything was just as it should be, safe from the dangers, and focusing on what was in front of her. When she approached the entrance, gasping. Her sharp eyes narrowed closely to the area of the leader, Marsh'star, speaking to a large, light-cream cat with blue eyes. Her heart dropped only to realize who it was, that stepped into the clan.

Chapter **2**

Stone'star, the leader of CavernClan.

He came back after a long meeting with Marsh'star. Although he was exhausted, he always showed complete eloquence overall. His strength never wavered, and he'll do anything to get what he wants for the benefits of his clan's survival during those difficult times.

He enters the cave, spotting his warriors that came from patrol, and High'sight bossing the lower ranks around. Ivory'hiss worked on keeping up with the herbs that were brought to her. Her eyes did narrow at the sight of her leader, with irritation that spread on her face just from seeing his blue eyes and a smirk that was seen from his muzzle. She refused to trust him, even if the times were rough.

The deputy above the rock spotted his leader. He leaps down and trotted towards him. His tongue was formal and proper. "Our warriors went out for dusk patrol." He explains. "There is a lacking for herbs and prey. It's a huge problem that spreads to the rest of the clans..." His tone expressed his agitation. Stone'star, however, didn't pay no mind to it. "Of course, I've seen what has occurred with the clans lately. Oh, how far we've fallen." He rolls his eyes, seemingly careless of things. He walked past his deputy, wanting to rest in his secluded den.

"But-..." High'sight approaches him, his paws briefly blocked the leader's way. "I should be able to address something about your son." He says, his expression left troubled just from the thought. Stone'star still did not care. "What about it?" He held his laughter. "He's better off dead."

"Stone'star..." High'sight held his breath, feeling reluctant to say anything else. It truly feared how his leader would react from it. "He's alive."

The leader stops. The world was now weighed on his shoulders. The cave is now quiet. "... Which one?" His tone is low and quiet as he hides into his den, High'sight was confused over the question that he asked. He follows his leader into his den to keep their meeting discreet from others. "What do you mean? Your only son is Ice'watcher, remember?" He sits down, his eyes glances at Ivory'hiss who was still managing the cave. Her ears were still listening. She wanted to hear everything that came from the leader's mouth. "Oh! Yes... yes." Stone'star caught himself, his old age coming to him after holding out those seven lives for a long time. "It's... the memories."

"I see." High'sight nodding understandingly. "Ice'watcher has been causing havoc, and... he sent out a message for us earlier. With bones and bodies of lost lives, he's a danger to all of us." High'sight's tail thumped onto the ground. Just the feeling of unease set Stone'star into paranoia. "Shouldn't the stars have told me about this? Are they not seeing our cats suffer from these things? Those vicious beings that have taken control in all of us? Surely, they should've given that medicine cat an omen. I'm scared greatly for our clan, I really am."

"We've done everything we could to get StarClan back and hope that the moonstone can be repaired, but it's long gone, I'm afraid." High'sight lowers his head. Stone'star had other plans, his face lingered with obvious anger and bitterness to the news about shattered connections. "We worshipped them every day, and this is how they repay us!? For shame!" His voice grew loud enough to make the deputy flinch. "I want to make this territory a place I can bear to look at. But these fools are moving away from what we've fought for! The end will happen before we know it!"

"I know how much we've done to please the stars, but-... nothing will be worth it now. We're all better off to move from this land. You do know what we've done to-"

Stone'star hisses at the deputy, harshly pawing his shoulder. "Those minds will infect our clan. Nothing happened, and nothing will ever happen." His voice is laced with venom; his sclera filled with small lines of veins that looked like cracks. "We will not leave our home. The stars are counting on us. It will be our duty to keep this clan

alive; you get me?" His demeanor remains calm, even after he had hit his own deputy. High'sight, standing close to the corner, shocked after his leader's violent approach, nodded slowly. "I... hear you."

"Good." Stone'star stood from his spot and walked right out of his den. "Continue on what you're doing, I need to speak to an old friend if you don't mind."

"Not at all." High'sight follows Stone'star out of the small tunnel. "I'll have the warriors fetch you a meal."

Stone'star didn't respond and only left the area as he made his way down the cave. He was greeted by his fellow warriors and their apprentices who came from their duties. He responded back with his usual charm.

He still remained popular in the clan except for one cat. Hearing the murmuring and growling, he spots a she-cat in an isolated part of the cave. The smell is rancid; Nash could easily tell that there were still lost bodies rotting underneath a perfect face CavernClan still upholds. Nash didn't eat; her maw was dry from the lack of water. Her vision is still blurry when she sees Stone'star approaching her. Her claws flexed, and she snarls at him. She was angry, frightened even. She shouts at the leader who just sat there and watches her misery. "You don't know what I'll do to you when the blood of your clan paints my paws..." Her voice is low and vengeful sounding. "When Blaze'light finds you... He'll-..."

"Do what?" The leader cuts her off, his head tilting as he examines the scars on her body when she was captured. "You won't do anything, and neither will he." His heavy paws press against her belly, his claws grazing her fur and causing a small wound, leaking blood all over. "You shouldn't have made that decision, you knew **we** were looking for you anyway."

"And you're proving my choices right!" Nash responded, seeing some of the warriors that were standing behind him. Stone'star would ignore the she-cat's complaints, eying at his loyalists before padding right out of the tunnel, his tail swaying calmly. His expression was emotionless, showing no remorse to the new prisoner. As darkness closes in on her, the two warriors were given

a pile of herbs that were forbidden if given to an injured fellow. Foxgloves, yew berries, you name it.

However, Nash wasn't going down without a fight.

Chapter **3**

In the midst of the thick gloomy fog, the two brothers settled on top of a ledge that stood over the valley.

Blaze'light noticed his brother's eyes illuminating in the dark. It piqued his curiosity, yet he truly didn't know how to put it. Since the incident occurred, it wasn't that his brother became a new cat, but his powers are what took control of him. The mysterious mark had given Red'fang something that no other cat could wish for.

"I can't believe **you** fell in love with a loony." Red'fang spat, his large form shadowing over his brother, who scoffs from his words. "She isn't a loony. She's... hardheaded at times."

"Yeah, a thick-brained loony who doesn't know when to shut her maw." His words were condescending; he glared at his brother in the fault of thinking he led her on. "I swear younger warriors make the worst decision. You have me out here saving her when you should've been away from SaguaroClan's borders in the **first** place." He turns his head at him, baring his teeth and stretching his limbs. Blaze'light grumbled as he focused on the remaining warriors out on dusk patrol. "You make it seem as if I'm the mouse-brained one. It was an accident that we've walked into Ember'star with one of his she-cats! Can we just make it through the night, please?"

"If I find life to be worthy of, I can." The brown striped tom murmurs before jumping off the ledge. There were red particles emitting from his tail as he slowly glided into one of the trees with thick growth that covered his body. Blaze'light watch as his brother descends from the ledge, he was able to keep an eye on the roaming warriors and began to use anything that was around him to make the tiniest bit of noise that an average cat could track. He left Red'fang doing everything else, and his eyes had a hint of worry seeing two warriors that were now running towards the ledge. "He's going to get himself killed one day." He murmurs, now jumping off the branches and snuck off.

Running back into his home territory gave him pains to the paws. It had the feeling of walking on hot coals and sharp thorns of each step he took. The marking on his right front arm began to burn and cause the whole mission to be a nightmare due to the amount of the agonizing pain he was feeling. The memories flooded his mind; he found himself being scarred by his own father with the voice of disappointment that reigned over his mind. The pressure stung his scars, and he snarls into an empty space, trying to escape the dark ginger tom.

"**You're no worthy if you leave CavernClan like that! Look at me, Red'paw, LOOK!**"

"This is just foolish." He complained, his eyes now focusing on the wide valley in front of him. It splits up the borders of SaguaroClan and CavernClan.

Why did I trust that leader? Have I always been a puppet to him, to StarClan?

He runs across the large strip and to the nearest tunnel, where he uses his strong paws to climb himself up from the bottom. He could feel the unfriendly atmosphere and the traumatic memories that were caused by that cave. He even found himself hesitant when seeing the stream that stretched across from MurkClan and in front of CavernClan's mountain to create a lake. But sometimes, when he looks at it again, he wishes he didn't fight back to live another day of hell.

He also noticed that there was a large burial site below the cliffs, with many cats that were bones from being neglected. He kept his identity discreet as more cats exit from the cave, but his eyes narrow at something that he found intriguing. A loud hiss and a snarl that he picked up from underground. It didn't take Red'fang that long to find one of the open tunnels that led to the prisoner's den. His eyes narrowed even further, focusing on the noises that sounded like one of the warriors yelling for their lives. This humored the tom, who heard the panicking voices with glee. "Ain't that a surprise." He whispered, now walking down the tunnel with his paws creeping in the shadows. The lower he got, the louder the voices, Nash's language was out of this world that it was even

expected from her when being manhandled by those two warriors.

"Clans like yours do whatever the shock they want, that's the problem!" She clawed one of the warriors' shoulders, glancing at the other one who was bleeding out after a wound to the neck. "**RAVINE'TROUT! HIGH'SIGHT!**" Wolf'haze yells, now backing away from Nash. His loud voice woke up the rest of the clan members.

"**WE GOT TROUBLE IN THE UNDERGROUND! SHE'S CRAZY!**"

The heads of cats were raised as they all went outside to see Nash leaping from the ledge, claws were displayed as she charges at Opal'paw, who was the last to saw her before being captured by her own mentor. Nash had rage in her eyes, she couldn't care less if someone was in the way. The apprentice became unfortunate to her plan as Nash pins her down, clawing her sides and leaning down to bite her scruff and drag her away. "ONE MORE STEP AND SHE GETS IT!" The she-cat's voice muffled with anger, she could see Stone'star and the panicked warriors who were caught in a standoff. Nash was backing out to the entrance, where she was about to drop the apprentice off the cliff.

Opal'paw thrashed, her claws sunk onto the shoulders of her captor as she shrieked. Ravine'trout ran at Nash with her claws unsheathed, and her tail lashing onto the ground. "GET YOUR DIRTY PAWS OFF OF **HER!**"

Cats were surrounding Nash as they began to prep for a fight of a lifetime. Red'fang observed, but his maw dropped when he sees her holding the apprentice hostage. "Oh, for StarClan's sake!" He cries, now running across the prisoner cave and leaping over Wolf'haze as he glides across the cave. Stone'star's eyes widen when seeing a red streak, with the silhouette of a familiar cat, before ordering his cats to attack Nash.

"**GET HER!**"

The she-cat would take off running with Opal'paw being held by her maw. The apprentice wiggled her body, screaming as she saw a stampede of warriors going after them. Nash could see her mate's

brother flying across the night sky, yet she did not want to be carried like a kit and even refused to let Opal'paw go. Red'fang was screaming for her, even out of fear for the apprentice who was going to get hurt. "**LET GO OF HER! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?**" His voice booms in the air as he reaches over to stop Nash from running. "**STOP!**"

The rest of the warriors were still on her tail; some were even beginning to jump on the trees to get a better look of her. Unlucky for them, things were starting to get worse than what it was before. The cats were now below the mountains, coming across the cold forest that was set in front of CavernClan's territory.

Red'fang moves in front of Nash, blocking the she-cat from running further out deep in the unclaimed territories. Opal'paw fell from her grip, a subtle mark appeared on the back of her neck as she watched the two cats arguing with one another. "Why do you always have to take it to the furthest!? You traumatized the poor apprentice!" Red'fang's eyes were vibrantly red, his face recoiling from the instant pain of his burning mark. His fur rose, and his tail was picking up speed by lashing at everywhere that was near him. "No need to scold me for what I did was right! They-..." She briefly turns at the apprentice, who was curling up in a ball. Nash did feel some sympathy knowing that she had taken too far.

"...they were just in the way."

"Just in the way." He mocks her excuse, now pushing her away from Opal'paw. "I was only here to save you! Not to become the reason why you're a territory threat!"

"So what? why don't you stand up to Stone'star instead of constantly running away!?" Nash moves close to the tom, her voice raucous and raspy from all the running. "If it weren't for you to be a fool, this wouldn't happen!"

Red'fang stopped, he only spoke in an annoyed, hushed voice that explains his exhaustion of everything. "I have enough problems on my paws, Nash. Things just don't work in miracles... and StarClan-..." He hesitated, hearing his father's voice once again. But Thorn wasn't there to punish him anymore, not even his mentor as

well. "StarClan is nothing. We suffer for their sake."

Nash stood there, silent. Opal'paw who overheard the loner's words was left appalled.

It didn't take long for one of the warriors to find Red'fang out in the open. The warrior hid in the trees, overhearing his blasphemous talk about StarClan. They didn't hesitate to have their claws out and graze his back as he is being attacked by them. "**RED'FANG!**" Nash yelled, seeing the tom now backing out into the cliff as he attempted to remove the warrior from back. The tom hissed and batted their head as his claws scraped their face.

"I don't want to kill you, but if I have to- I will!" The tom yelled, his voice warning the warrior. "GET **OFF!**"

"Not after Stone'star wants to see you alive, you're a traitor! **A TRAITOR!**"

The CavernClan warrior was violently thrown onto the ground, his throat burning from the yelling. He didn't give up, he wanted to prove Red'fang just how much power StarClan had over them, and even their minds who looks up to them every single day.

Before Nash could stop them from fighting, the warrior was caught under the loner's paws as the two cats slip and fell from the cliff.

Chapter 4

She couldn't sleep, not after what she saw. A considerable ally for MurkClan? What kind of catnip was Marsh'star on?

River'lily hardly ever had peace with those cats, to make them an ally is like taking a walk into a thunder path just to get flattened by a monster. She constantly stirred and kicked herbs around; she hated knowing that she truly didn't have any power to help now that the moon cave is destroyed. She will have to make something different if it means to make her role more deserving, and that she truly did have power over the enforcers who ruled with a hard paw.

However, she does hear a whisper that lingers in both of her ears, her fur felt a tickling feeling of grass bristling her backside. The warmth of her paws with the sunlight that gleams on her pelt. A hawk that circled above her as she woke up to a realm of tranquility and longevity. It was a mountainous meadow with large trees dressed in ancient gifts, with the sun painted in white on the marked trees. What she never seen before was a large ball of fire above her, where it had been moons, even before she was born, to ever seen the glory of the sun again.

It was a strange place, but it had grown into familiarity of it. Many countless dreams, she found peace in an endless realm. This felt to be more than just a simple desire. She notices the sun moving close to her, the skies becoming brighter as the wind moves towards her. The trees and grass began to fall back; her eyes were blinded by the intensity of the light of the sun who is now transforming into the figure of a feline, with the fur fading off with the clouds. Their eyes opening, revealing a black pupil with stars and constellations that can be seen in the eyes of a mortal warrior. There were various markings that represented the sun and moon, it was a message greater than StarClan.

River'lily stood before the ethereal figure, her eyes were squinting from the light, but she could see the grief that the figure hides from its cold, emotionless expression. There were hints of cracks and scars on its body, a legacy destroyed from what was left in the past long ago.

"Remember us..." Said the cat, now hovering over her. Its tail turns into streaks of spiraling light and wind that wraps around the medicine cat, carrying her close to the eyes of the star-lit space.

"..Remember us, and light will be in your path."

Then, the realm turns white. The wind brings her up to the skies, her eyes closes as she embraces the feeling of what she hoped for. Freedom, and forever peace.

She finds herself spiraling out of control as she jumps up, her paws kicking everywhere in a panic.

A tom cat was calling her name constantly. "River'lily? River'lily!"

River'lily immediately opens her eyes to see Mushroom'paw in front of her. The apprentice nudged her awake with his paw. River'lily looked at he. There was an awkward silence. The clouds were still gray, the storm rumbled above, having the feeling of rain.

Her apprentice looked concerned to see the expression on River'lily's face. "Are you okay?"

The medicine cat quickly rose from her moss bed. "Yes! I'm-... fine..." Her voice came out as a mumble, her ears had a ringing noise that made her tumble and fall right to the ground, it had concerned many surrounding clan members, and the sick that had been staying in their den. They had woken up from the large thud of River'lily's fall.

"Do you need me to give you anything?" Mushroom'paw asked. He looked at the large pile of herbs that was gathered from yesterday. But he didn't know what he could use. River'lily stood up on her four legs, her eyes staring at Mushroom'paw who was determined to

make his mentor feel better by grabbing random herbs that he hadn't learned before. He grabbed one of herbs that he didn't know of and offered his mentor one. River'lily sat down, her arms and paws stretched on Mushroom'paw's arms gently, forcing him to put the herbs down. "I am fine." Her voice sounded harsh, but she didn't mean it to be that way, she didn't know how to act after a dream like that, but she knew to hide her emotions to avoid panic.

"You're not even grabbing the right herbs." River'lily scolded, seeing that Mushroom'paw had a large cluster of herbs he was holding with his jaw. He lowered his ears in fear and dropped them right on the floor. "I'm sorry- I-"

"Don't." River'lily stopped him. "We have more important matters, and that I will have to make time in teaching you herbs and the usages of them." There was a hint of guilt in her voice. "I have neglected my privileges in mentoring you." She admitted, Mushroom'paw walked towards her, and sat down in front of her, like a kit to a mother. "It isn't too late to teach me now, isn't it?" The apprentice spoke in a way of encouragement. River'lily stood there before nodding. Her body had soothed from the presence of her apprentice, which she didn't want to admit it.

She became fond of him in a short time.

"Okay. I'll teach you the basics." River'lily said, her voice relieving from the way she acted minutes ago. Mushroom'paw purred, and his tail swiveling around, showing his contentment and excitement. River'lily was still hiding her panic from the dream. She will need to speak Marsh'star of this omen tonight.

Whatever the spirit had in store for her, she will hope that peace will reign the territories once again.

Chapter 5

The tom was knocked out cold. The pain of his back scars was worse than when the dog CavernClan sent to track him down caught him by surprise. He handled that problem with the use of his brains, but it was still a terrifying time to when he nearly saw Dani get killed by the beast.

Red'fang groaned, his limbs stretching all over the place. He found himself in the deepest of the gorge that surrounded the edge of the mountains. His left paw was bloody, his eyes narrowed when seeing the dangling body of the CavernClan warrior. Seeing the familiarity of their appearance, it was Oak'climb who had attacked him. It led the fearless warrior into a gruesome fate of his neck being cracked as he fell straight into the stone ground. Red'fang could remember how reckless he was, but he still held mercy for him.

His eyes wandered up the ledge, where Nash and the apprentice were long gone. He curses underneath his breath; the frustration and anger come over him. His body was in much pain that he couldn't fly back over the cliffs and make his way back to the barn. He was better off taking a walk into the strip of loneliness. The thoughts that he tried hard to keep away were creeping back to his mind. He looked around and began limping into the midst of the thick fog. His breathing hitches when feeling a sense of sharp pains to his mark. He clenches his fangs and keeps pushing on further and further.

The pain did not waver; it was getting tremendously worse to the point that the other side of his body was numb. His legs became stagnant, and he was starting to freeze up. "Curse this!" He spat, his claws dragging along the lines of the dirt he created. His pupils darted when hearing noises that were in front of him. A subtle figure blending in with the shadows and creeping in the corners. He would see the mysterious feline enter a tunnel; his mark began to glow and create shocks within his body that nearly caused his heart to beat vigorously.

The tom couldn't take the pain anymore. He knew he wouldn't make it over the hill to return to his loved ones. He takes the same way of the mysterious feline, entering the dark tunnel with many pathways that were all over the place. The scent of the feline was faint, but his thoughts told him otherwise. He could hear the chirp of a hawk on his right, where a deep, dark tunnel would be right there. Red'fang didn't know what to do, but all he simply wanted was a break, a break from reality, and to all the pain that he had endured coming from CavernClan.

He turns his head away, wanting to move on from the chaos that ensued the night before. The chirping of the hawk became louder and desperate. It annoyed the loner greatly.

But his anger couldn't beat his curiosity. It made him wonder if the sun mark had anything to do with that. He would fall into the abyss, his paws moving down in the underground where the hawk's call echoed, until it abruptly stopped when he steps foot into see a bright light in the end of the tunnel. The sound of a rushing water pouring into a large pond. He could hear the voice of the mysterious feline, speaking as if she was in shock to what was the outcome of whatever she saw. Red'fang wanted to pull away, but the voice entrances him to go further, until stopping at the very end where he hid behind one of the rocks.

There lived a green-eyed, charcoal she-cat who stood there. Her eyes never left from the shrine of the two suns and a moon. It appeared to Red'fang that she had a subtle crescent marking on her forehead. Her eyes were focused on the shrine that had three cats holding the two suns and the moon in the shape of unity to night and day. It was beautifully made, with many colors of both warm and cool from both sides. With a spiral of light in the middle that had white wings surrounding them all. Jade found it hard to look away, yet there were doubt in her heart that made her rethink her decision.

Had it been a trick from StarClan that led her back to her past? She could see the prominent figures of the special shrine, yet she couldn't pinpoint what they wanted from her. All she believed was independence to the mind and body. She never wanted to follow the stars and their tricks again after her imprisonment from birth to

the present. Her mother was unfortunate to fall into a spiral of delusions. She will never understand why it is to rely on the stars to appear morally good.

For a moment, she felt someone was watching. Her pupils were glaring at each corner, hoping that it wasn't them again. But to her surprise, it was a tom standing on the ledge. Jade was quite paranoid. She didn't know his intentions. She was better off running away instead of facing him. Red'fang noticed her preparing to run off. He quickly descended himself from the ledge and down the steep hill. "Don't." His voice was slightly commanding.

"Who are you?" Jade's hackles began to appear. Her stance was quite hostile, her tail lashing and thumping on the ground. Her ears flattened when the mysterious tom got close. "Are you there to hurt me..?"

"No." Red'fang moves close to her. His expression was firm. Although there was a tinge of sympathy seeing the faded scars on her body. She may have gone through a lot just like him, but he was still protective of himself. He never knew what tricks CavernClan had in stored. "Are you affiliated with them?"

"With who?" She retorts, moving away from him. "If you dare speak about Ember'star, I'll-!"

This caught him off-guard. He raises his brow, glaring at her. He knew Ember'star's reputation very well. With a mate and loads of other secret ones that were never told to poor Fern'flame. It led him to pity her, or as he thought. "You were a former mate to him, I assume?" He asks, hoping for an answer. Jade eyes grew even more irritated. "That's a mouse-brained assumption. I was only in SaguaroClan under his leadership. I wouldn't want to waste my time being laid with him." She remarked, which made Red'fang shook his head. He found humor in her outspoken bluntness and the lack of filter.

"You can say that again." He sits down in front of her, his eyes focusing on the shrine again. "I saw that you were staring in front of this strange.. altar. Any significance to it?"

"Very." Jade answered, she glances at his sun marking that was quite similar to the crescent that was on her forehead. "I'm not sure, I always have trouble of trusting anything nowadays. But this one elder.. before they died, she had told me about a forgotten tribe-like clan thousands of moons ago. But some war had divided them all into the four clans we know today." She slowly dips her paw into the pond in front of her. There were white flowers with the petals that were closed shut. They roamed around the sparkly pond as if they were a roaming silver moon in a night sky. Red'fang was confused as to where this conversation was going. The pain is still there, but not as much now that he feels energy when staring into the shrine. "Is this related to their story?" He asks.

A streak of light enters the cave as it shines into the faces of two cats that were holding the sun. What he noticed is that the sun was the same as his marking.

"It wasn't there for a reason." Jade stares into the eyes of the silver cat holding the moon. "It.. is pretty, I say." She murmurs before turning her head back at Red'fang. "But I have to ask, where did you come from? Do..- Do you mind me tagging along? I have nowhere to go, and-"

"It's fine." Red'fang cuts her off, now to where he is now standing next to her, not close enough to break her boundaries. "We're a rogue group anyways, but my story is quite a hefty one if you're willing to hear." He looks at her, expecting some judgment coming fromnher surprised look. Jade, unexpectedly, was actually purring. "I am more than welcome to hear.. uh.." Her voice pans out. She didn't know his name.

"Red'fang." He says, now turning towards the exit. "My name is Red'fang."

Jade, seemingly pleased without suffering the dreaded awkward silence, trails behind him. "Red'fang."

As the two left the cave, the pain did not ease. From the shrine's connection to his pain and a disconnected feeling from the short story, he knows now that this territory has their secrets.

He's willing to find out soon.

Chapter **6**

As the day went by, the signs of the gathering were closer. It had reached dusk, just in time. River'lily needed to have a short meeting with Marsh'star beforehand.

She could not let this dream she had go to waste. When Mushroom'paw tended a fellow apprentice's minor injuries with the little herbs he had for his task, the medicine cat trotted into the leader's den.Marsh'star feasted on his prey before he could go to tonight's meeting. He saw that River'lily had entered the den. He was skeptical. "Do you need anything?" His tone sounding rude as usual. He wasn't fond by some of the cats because of his natural personality. "I need to talk to you about something." River'lily says, her voice left anxious. "Make it quick. We have a gathering, you know." Marsh'star retorted, being a smart aleck, that irritated the medicine cat.

"I know how important the gathering is, but this is serious." The medicine cat urged. "I was given an omen of a sun, and that we should pull away from the meeting for a moment."

"The **sun?**" Marsh'star shaking his head, before cackling at her face. "You're joking right? The sun hasn't been out since I was born!" He turns his head to the side as he observes the she-cat with a glint of judgement. "You must've been out of your mind if StarClan ever chooses you to become our savior!"

"You're trusting a cat who lives life like a rogue than a true warrior!" She spat, mentioning the meeting with Stone'star. "If you can believe every word he says, you can believe mine." Her front paws stomped on the muddy dirt below her. Marsh'star stood up from the dirt, his large shadow hovering over her. "I see Stone'star as a reasonable leader. He's been helping us and SaguaroClan with the ongoing sickness. I expected more from you than to insult the alliance that I and CavernClan settled on."

"The legends of the forest territories learned to never trust a cat who put themselves first than their own clan!" The she-cat was fuming of Marsh'star's ignorance. She even internally questions herself as to why he is even MurkClan's leader in the first place. "Are that dense to let someone take over the clan like that? Letting alone, someone who shouldn't be trusted with unlimited power?"

Marsh'star became easily aggravated of River'lily's words. "Get out then!" The leader snapped at her. "If you don't care for the clan, then we shouldn't want you here." He dismisses her. River'lily eyes furrowed, glaring furiously at the leader. "I'll leave when my warriors are well." She affirmed. "If I leave, Stone'star will take over our clan, he will ruin us. Mark my words."

The medicine cat then storms off, leaving Marsh'star with his own thoughts, but he wasn't giving up this alliance at all. River'lily will have to think of another plan, she hopes for whatever dream she had, to give her a sign. She was still fuming from the short argument she had just had with her leader, but she saw that Mushroom'paw was getting better. The apprentice, Mud'paw had injured his shoulder from playing too roughly. He was using the cobwebs to wrap around Mud'paw's shoulder after creating a poultice to ease his wound.

"Hey, Mushroom'paw." The medicine cat approaches the apprentice. "You can go; I hear your friends want to go to the gathering with you." Her tone returning to be more motherlike than when she first met him. Mushroom'paw looks at River'lily. He had gotten worried from how exhausted she looked. "Are you sure? I can stay all night if I need to!"

"No." She shakes her head. "You've been working a lot today. I should be able to let you have your fun." She sits right in front of Mud'paw, taking the herbs from her apprentice's paws and continues to soothe his wounds. Mushroom'paw nodded and padded away from the medicine den. He was still so worried, and he wanted to know what she was stressed about. He had to accept that it wasn't his place to know what his mentor had gone through.

He did see that the cats were getting ready to leave, he sees his friends, Moss'paw, and Bush'paw, who waited for him.

"Come on, snail-tail!" Bush'paw mocked, calling him slow. Mushroom'paw grumbled and ran with the apprentices. "I'm coming! I'm coming!" He yelled, following them.

The cats of the island territory gathered in the middle of the large island. An underground cave, the opening on the top showed the moon glistening behind the clouds, but the nights were darker and starless than usual. It had given some creeps to everyone. The cave looked like a mess, the vines handing from the top appeared to be dry, and the winds tend to be cold for what reason. It could be that leaf-bare is coming close, but not to be worried on that much. It never snowed much in the islands. There was also a large opening behind the rocks of where the clan leaders stood that reveals the drowning place.

MurkClan reached the gathering cave first, Mushroom'paw and his friends followed their mentors to sit at the best spot. BeachClan followed them. Shingle'star and her deputy Dune'gale traveled to the high stones, sitting with Marsh'star and Pond'hollow, MurkClan's deputy.

There were some gossips while waiting here and there, but Shingle'star didn't look all that pleased when the two close alliances, CavernClan and SaguaroClan, came.

Stone'star had his chest puffed up, he was still holding a mighty impression to the younglings that looked up to him. On the inside would be the paranoia of seeing old kin returning back in blood. His fur had shed a little coming from the stress, but his deputy made sure of hiding them away from everyone else to see. There was still an opportunity that he could make those heads turn and bow to him. He assured himself that he'll find great peace for the territory to last a long, bright future.

Meanwhile, Ember'star came last, the awkward silence took over. Mushroom'paw could overhear elders sharing tongues, and a few she-cats he known, turning their faces away from their mates. Had it been true that infidelity was a specialty to the infamous leader? He'd never known until the apprentice would meet the leader personally through an alliance. His deputy, Cactus'bite, sat below the rocks of the stones, glaring at the other warriors carefully. It

had gotten crowded easily.

"Now, now, quit with your murmurings!" Shingle'star yowled, catching everyone's attention. The cats had stopped. It was time for the gathering to officially start.

Shingle'star turned to the fellow leaders. She gave a nod to Ember'star, letting him go first.

The tom stood from the stones and spoke with his voice loud and clear.

"Our prey and water have been scarce in the past moon. The weather is dry, and we have been coming across a rogue that had been a danger in the territory." He was bold with his words, but near the end of his sentence, he was terrified of something. He then looked at the apprentices, Quail'paw and Owl'paw. "We do have new apprentices, Quail'paw and Owl'paw. I hope StarClan will wish them well on their journey to become warriors."

His tone changed to be prouder with the newly apprentices, but Stone'star was reading him like a book. He knew something was up with Ember'star. He may have to confront him soon.

Ember'star then stepped down, looking at Shingle'star, giving her a nod to start.

"BeachClan has been peaceful, overall. The tides have rose, but we found a way to manage it." She speaks. However, Shingle'star's voice drowned out from Mushroom'paw's consciousness. All he saw was a bright light luring in the skies that took shape of an avian, maybe a hawk coming from the distant call that made his ears itch. He shook his head when feeling a tug coming from Bush'paw who gestured her paw to their own leader.

"There's an ongoing sickness that has affected greatly of my warriors." Marsh'star began, but his tone became vaguely bitter. "...My medicine cat has done... her best to work on fighting against the sickness. I hope StarClan blesses us, and we pray that MurkClan will be better than before." He finished. He turns his head to Stone'star, and adds an announcement. "MurkClan has also allied

with CavernClan and SaguaroClan, we will be working together to get us through the harsh times that we are living right now."

He then gives a nod to Stone'star, letting him finish the gathering with his voice.

"The best for last?" Stone'star stood on his four paws, his eyes glaring down at the others as if they were under him. He finds himself in a moment where he can be in control.

"With MurkClan and SaguaroClan's alliance, my clan will do everything to help others get through the rest of leaf-fall and leaf-bare, as we are suffering the same thing of scarce prey and water. I will do everything in my power of StarClan to help each and one of you...." He trailed off, glaring at Shingle'star. "Though I am more concerned of Shingle'star's situation... you should've let me help your clan's struggles. This alliance is counting on us to be more responsible and to take the way of what StarClan wants."

"I disagree with your ideas, and I do not prefer getting into an alliance." The BeachClan leader states her decision.

Stone'star's muzzle tugged into a frown. He wasn't satisfied. "But your clan, they are suffering. You can't avoid the message that StarClan had given me. We must reunite for the sake of the territory's survival."

His son watched the short feud until noticing Mushroom'paw, gazing at him and his father's eyes. This had grown into concern. But he still watched the gathering. "My clan is alright." Shingle'star's voice went stern. "I don't believe StarClan would want you out of all cats to be their candidate." Her eyes went slit. She wasn't trusting him. Her clanmates may be questioning her choices, but the BeachClan leader believed she was doing the right thing. Stone'star's face recoiled in offense. But when he sees that his clan was watching him, he had to do the right thing, for now. "I can assure you that we'll give you many preys and herbs for your clan, but if you refuse help for your survival, that's your choice."

"My choice is final." Shingle'star subtly shows her fangs out of irritation. "We will not join you."

Her refusal was something he did not like to hear. He turns around before coldly making his last response before sending his warriors on their way. "Gathering dismissed."

Mushroom'paw noticed the darkness pouring from the corner as it began to surround the cave. Maybe it had been his own vision or the fact that he can see such things happening in front of his eyes. There were stains of blood on Stone'star as he walks past him. The tom eyes him up, heavily breathing when he found trouble to move. All he saw was those blue eyes staring at him up and down, not noticing his clan was also leaving, and the others.

"Weird cat." The CavernClan leader would murmur as he stares at the medicine apprentice before turning around and leaving. High'sight was demanding of the warriors who came with them, his harsh voice could be comparable to a barking dog.

Moss'paw stood up, nudging her friend's body so she could get his attention. "Mushroom'paw, are you alright?" She asked, her voice timid sounding.

"...Yes." The medicine apprentice shook his head, trying to fade off what he just saw. "Yes, I'm alright."

Moss'paw didn't fully believe what he had said, but it was late. So, he must've been tired.

"Come along, let's go back to camp." She speaks.

Mushroom'paw took a breath and stood from his spot.

But he knew that there was something wrong. *Very wrong.*

Chapter 7

With vengeance running in the eyes of an evil spirit, Mushroom'paw knew that something was wrong, but it wasn't **just** because of Stone'star, no. The leader had blood on his paws in the fault of one cat who had spiraled out of control.

He was believed to leave and never come back after what had happened with his mother. Mushroom'paw felt queasy enough that he could barely sleep in the medicine den at night. What he didn't notice was River'lily's open eyes, sleeping on her side to keep her face hidden from her apprentice. She could tell he was still awake. Her eyes narrow at his limbs dragging along the floor as he picks himself up and walk right out of the den to catch some fresh air.

The skies were dark, but the moon was stuck behind the heavy clouds that can at least give the territories light to fend off the dark. He sees that a few warriors were out on dusk patrol, but many chose to stay and sleep in camp. There hasn't been any growth since moons ago, and some of the warriors and elders were still in the medicine den, leaving the clan to be vulnerable. It led to the tom thinking that Stone'star either wanted to help them or listening to River'lily's tangents that he was the reincarnation of the slain tiger back in the forest territories. He became conflicted with himself if he should believe the first option to be true. After all, MurkClan is dying from the inside, and out.

He leaves camp, dragging his paws along the murky waters that came with a stench that was worse than BeachClan's camp. He never thought he was a true cat to the marshlands when he hated neglecting his paws to whatever was lurking below him. His arms were now stained and even a few flecks of mud sprinkled onto his eyes which he would close them and try to work with nature for once. He could see a remote hill where the old tree took place. It had become a habit that he always clears his mind there to reflect off of the life he lives now. StarClan's lack of interference, made

him feel loss of hope.

He collapses on the long grass as he makes his way up the hill, now staring into the void above him. A sinking feeling rain over his body, he would usually think about the stars a lot. With eyes of the ancestors that always stare back at him. He was told to never regret about his role, he was an advisor for his ancestors, and for StarClan. Mushroom'paw had the power in his hands, yet he felt driven by fear and unworthiness. Every little step he takes, whether is something approved or disapproved, those eyes in the sky were always watching. It was weighing him down to feel completely useless when StarClan doesn't respond back to their situation with the destruction of the moon cave.

But he could still feel those eyes behind the heavy cloud, as long as the spirit of StarClan remains, he will forever be watched with nothing that he could do other than to obey.

Or so he thought that StarClan was only watching.

His sharp ears began to move, his pupils dilated when hearing a noise of many shadows lurking in the territory. He body began to stir and move close to the tree when feeling a cold wind that causes his body to shiver. He faces to skies, pleading the eyes to do something to whoever may be prowling in the darkness. His silent prayer hoped the just will protect his body and spirit. But as he opens his eyes, there he is met with the rebellious of CavernClan. His claws unsheathed, and his bloody, mangy face appears from the waters where his blue eyes could pierce an innocent soul.

Like a white tiger pouncing from the darkness, Mushroom'paw yelps as he quickly dodges the rogue's attack. The others began to pursuit him as their long legs ran across the marsh going after his tail. The splashes were intense, with paws running forward out of desperation. The water drenches his fur which made it harder to escape, some parts were deep to reach to his lower jaw, but his long legs had given him the advantage despite the blatant hatred of getting his paws dirty. His heart races as the rogues began to run on the sidelines where the grass is moist but dry from water. Their raspy voices taunt the apprentice.

"We'll put your head on a steak before you even know it!" Cut's voice shouts across the stagnant, murky, small ravine. The others began to laugh and mock the young tom's cries as he tries to make it towards the shore. "Leave me alone!" Cried Mushroom'paw, his anger being more evident in his expression. "River'lily's going to tear your throats out before you even know it!"

The other two rogues, Panther and Mamba began to track him down as their paws began to wrap around Mushroom'paw's hind legs. The apprentice's claws sheathes as he turns around to scratch Panther's face causing him to stumble and nearly drown. Mamba attempts to drown the apprentice, but he wrestled with the tom instead. His strong legs kick his belly as his arm reaches for the shore. His sharp claws gave him to advantage to leap from the water and onto the ground. He could see Mamba and Panther swimming to the other side of the marsh, leaving Mushroom'paw with relief that he had got away from those rogues.

However, something went across his mind as he stares at the rogues disappearing. His heart was still pounding nonstop, and his body never stopped trembling.

He hears a low growl behind him, the white tiger returning with anger in his eyes when he hears a familiar name.

"River'lily.." He murmurs, before lowering his stance until he was close enough for Mushroom'paw to not notice him. He could remember it all, from when he first met her and another tom, to being exiled for good. He laughs to himself, feeling the power, he has on his paws. He wasn't going to let her live in peace, not after what they had done to him. "**Consider this my retribution!**" The rogue yells, now jumping at Mushroom'paw and scarring his chest, attempting to knead him down and kill him instantly. The apprentice was prey to him, and he had grown into claiming the title as the white tiger.

"Get off of me!" Mushroom'paw uses his legs in attempt to kick the white tiger away, but he was small and weak for the eyes of unbreakable ice. His claws graze deeply onto the apprentice's chest, creating an unforgettable scar. He remained silent while doing this, relishing the desperate cries before Mushroom'paw could become

his next victim. But what he didn't notice was a shadow jumping from the sky, a scarred, tuxedo tom scarring both of Ice'watcher's shoulders and causing him to hiss and fall over.

"**LEAVE HIM BE, FOX-HEART!**"

The rogues notice their leader's failure as they see a similar tom who they tormented long ago. They began to run at the shocked apprentice and the tom who remained as hard as a statue. He never wanted to turn away; the fear had left his face the moment he had seen the monster that had broken a family. Quickly, he would take hold of the apprentice's scruff with his jaw and took off running with Mushroom'paw. Leaving the white tiger to watch his two preys, running away into the night from his claws.

This won't be the last he'll see them.

Chapter **8**

The next morning, the barn is woken up with loud noises of a heated argument happening below Jade. Blaze'light and Nash had their own problems, but this was worse. She had found sanctuary with the territory misfits yet there was already chaos surrounding Red'fang and Dani. It had given her a brief flashback about her own parents from how loud their voices were. It made her heartbeat when she hears those words of what felt like a failing relationship.

"You haven't told me that you loved me in many moons, and you think I'm the reason we're failing?" Dani stood there, trying to reconcile what was burning between them. A barrier that caused the argument. Red'fang stares into the wall, ignoring her pleading. "There's bigger problems than just being lovebirds. You think the world revolves around **you.**" His voice is laced with venom, as his red eyes glare at Dani. His tail lashing when hearing the words of what Dani had to say, and they stung. "What problems? You never address them!" The she-cat snaps at him, her eyes filling up with tears and her expression turning into frustration. "You're always running, you **never** stand up to Stone'star like the coward you are!"

"Oh, I'm a coward." Red'fang rolls his head, now facing towards the wall again, dismissing her. "I'm a coward for keeping us protected and never initiate wars with clans that are bigger than us? You think everything happened to me was a choice?"

"Well, River'lily seems to fit that description! She can barely keep her mate away from me!" Dani roared, her words now causing Red'fang to stop when there were flashbacks to their younger years. His stupidity of what ruined a perfect relationship. He was speechless that he only looks at Dani with a broken-heart, and somewhat hatred to that memory of his own doing. Seeing that this argument wasn't going everywhere, he then walks away with silence. His eyes giving daggers at her as he walks into the fog, Dani

solemnly watches him fade away into nothing.

Jade, appalled by this, clearly didn't know what to think. Her eyes darted at Red'fang leaving the barn, should she try and comfort him?

Hearing the skies rumbling above her, and drops of rain starting up, she would leap from the second floor and to a crate as she chases Red'fang's tracks of mud. Dani was blinded with anger to see Jade running after her mate. She began to walk from the barn as well, going to the other way and never looking back.

Meanwhile, Jade found Red'fang continuing to walk as the rain drenches his fur, giving him the appearance of a mud beast roaming around. She uses her head to nudge his side, wanting him to stop. The loner turns around and stare at Jade, bewildered. Why did she care? None of this didn't rely on her, she was only there for safety, and not actually building a relationship with all the other cats of the barn. "What?" Red'fang stood there, glaring annoyingly at her. "What's up to you?" Jade responded in a low, casual tone. "Your voices interrupted my sleep."

He went from irritation to softening his rude demeanor. "This is normal." Red'fang responds, the storm cracking in the background. "We'll take it outside if that's what you want."

"No." She shakes her head, now sitting down. The she-cat could care less if she had mud stained on her gray fur. "You seem to be in need of some help. What-... she said back there was... interesting." She says, her eyes now focusing on Red'fang, and studying him. The tom was beginning to be dismissive about it, his expression growing bitter at the thought. But he couldn't simply deny the fact that he, and River'lily used to be a thing. "I hate the fact that she's right." He says, now wanting to stare at Jade with a hint of truth to his words. "I messed up." He lowers his head, the sympathy showing on the she-cat's face. However, she never believed that was true. "So did Ember'star, yet he didn't feel guilty about it." Jade rolls her eyes, the rain trickling on her fur. "But you on the other hand, I can see a change. You're just afraid to express it."

"What makes you think that?" Red'fang asks her. "I was doomed

from the spot the moment the crazy kitty became my mother, and a pompous jerk of a father. He had always been under Stone'star's paws, and now I'm the one to deal with it. Everything that happened in my life was all my own doing." He looks to the side, seemingly afraid to stare into her eyes. "I don't believe that." Jade shakes her head, her voice now stern and somewhat commanding. "Whatever happened in the past wasn't your fault, but to the present and future, it is different. You can always try again. Make it your destiny to fix what was broken."

Though, he was still unsure if he was able to do so. He hated seeing himself hurt the ones who were there for him, the ego that got ahold of his relationship and shred it all to pieces. There was no one to blame but himself. "Should I go and apologize to her?" Red'fang asks, his voice cracked as if he was desperate to make things right. Jade sighs, now staring up to the dark clouds above them, the rain wetting her face. "Apologize to everyone." She responded. "If they don't accept it, that's just that."

The storms became angrier as time passes. This was raising Red'fang's concern as he looks up to the clouds, with the wind moving intensely and trees creaking from side to side. "We better get going or we'll get squashed!" The tom stood up before nudging Jade to run off before following behind.

The two makes it to the entrance of the barn, where he thought Dani to be there, waiting.

But to his surprise, she was long gone and only saw Blaze'light and Nash there.

Chapter **9**

When the rain continues to pour, Dani was left with her thoughts. Her emotions are dull, and that there were no tears to cry when she had finally given up on him.

She could feel and hear Bloom'moss' presence as the ghost hovers over her as she does with others. She was listening to the she-cat's rants but often became bored of them. The rain continued on, but the she-cat didn't express any complaint in going back to the barn. "I don't think he forgives cats too much." She speaks. "Not even his own mother or his father. He cares but he doesn't know how to express it."

"What do you mean?" The ghost asks her with a dry tone on her voice; she was also curious about Dani's thoughts. The brown tuxedo glances at the ghost before speaking. "I remember that day, many, many moons ago. When his father died, I saw him crying when no one was looking." Her eyes began to gaze off into the skies, remembering her mate standing over the medium-sized grave with tears that wet the dirt. Bloom'moss' face turns into slight bitterness. "An interesting observation." She says, now walking next to her. "You sure care about him a lot."

"He doesn't see it." Dani retorts, her eyes growing into anger as she is reminded of constant arguments from time to time. "He always does this, he never sees what I've done to help him! He just brushes that aside!" Her voice grew loud, not noticing those lurking shadows that was watching her above the valley. "He must've been thinking about River'lily, why couldn't he just go back with her!?" She kicks the mud away, the storms growling above her that caused her ears to lack awareness from the roaming predators who had their eyes on her. Bloom'moss knew it well that CavernClan was waiting but said nothing of it.

"You're asking things that it'll be hard for him to give." Bloom'moss responded in a harsher, cynical approach. "You expect too much of

him, you're forgetting he has his **own** independent mind. If this continues further, there will be no peace." She scowls at the she-cat, finding no peace being around with someone whose brain is as hard as an iron wall. The brown tuxedo still shows resistance from her words; the lack of support angers her. "Then let it be!" Dani sharply turns around, yelling at the ghost who did not flinch for any reason. The mortal she-cat had completely lost it in her eyes. "I'll find my own if I have to!"

The lightning cracks above her, the ghost is left in silence. However, she began to snicker when seeing the shadows approaching close to the cat. "I grant you luck, then." The ghost purred, staring at the she-cat as the cats began to approach closer to her. She knew for a fact that all of this will grant her peace and quiet once everything is over. "But just know, mortal, that luck won't last forever."

As the ghost quickly disappears, the cats jump from the bushes and unsheathed their claws as they quickly surround and pounce at Dani with ferocity in their eyes. The she-cat yowled and bat one of the warrior's heads, but it was too many to fight, and she only has four paws to rely on. Ravine'trout, driven by a need of vengeance would make her debut to the weakened loner who was now forcefully put on to the ground. The cats showed no mercy; they were already creating wounds onto her body and spilling blood as Dani sees the patrol leader approaching her. "Get off of me!" She hisses. "**Let me go!**"

"I don't let prey free." Ravine'trout coldly responds, now kneading her paw onto the she-cat's neck, cutting her resource for oxygen and causing her to choke and cough. "Your mate here had killed one of our warriors, and now we're looking for him."

"Please!" Dani begged, her body shriveled up into a vulnerable position as the cats surrounded her like sharks. Her body trembled and those cats had given her a horrid reminder of her past memories with no peace to her soul. She couldn't help but to breakdown in front of them, it was pathetic. "Then tell us where he is and we might give you peace!" Ravine'trout's claws graze over Dani's throat. Her muscles tensed, and her eyes were wide and intimidating. "Your little group has caused too much pain in our

clan!"

"Please! I can't-... betray him! I can't put my friends-... into danger!" The tears began to appear; she found herself in a warfare of her own self. Though, she may have been motivated if given her own peace to be set free from those invisible chains holding her back. The pain in her heart that caused their relationship into turmoil and sadness. Maybe this is what she wanted, to be free from Red'fang, to be free from the fear of watching everyone die in front of her. The freedom that she had craved for a long time.

"I won't say it **again.**" The warrior's grip tightens, she didn't notice her apprentice, Opal'paw watching in horror as she only became a blur from her mentor's anger. She could easily recognize Dani from the incident, but she worried for her, she worried for everyone since the incident back at the moon cave. She wanted to disagree but fear any other punishment coming from her resistance to CavernClan. Dani coughs, batting her paws on Ravine'trout's face, desperately. "I'll talk! I'll talk!" She breathes, the pressure leaving from her throat as she coughs onto the ground. The rain drenches her face, it was impossible to see if she was actually crying or not. "They live in a red barn furthest from MurkClan's territory and above on of the entrances to the valley!"

Ravine'trout's eyes narrow at the answer, but seeing her becoming mates with the enemy, she was actually trusting for once. Whatever benefits her clan, she'll take the risk for it. "Very well." She backs away, glancing at the warriors that held her down in silence. "But we're not letting you go. Not just yet."

Opal'paw stood there, watching as the cats disperses, letting Dani rise from the ground. But they were still surrounding her, as if she had become a prisoner to them.

"You'll be helpful working with us, I assure you. You'll be granted with prey and free shelter, but don't think you'll be the same as us warriors." Ravine'trout warned, a low growl building up inside her throat. "You got that?" She moves close to Dani, her expression unforgiving and merciless. The she-cat would nod as the remains of her tears streaming down her face. There was no way out of this, she had betrayed Red'fang.

Opal'paw sees as the patrol began to leave with Dani, her heart beating after the intense encounter that left her wondering. Then she is greeted with a vision from the past, mirroring the future. A light shining in the distance of the dark, foggy clouds. All she hear is the distant roars of thunder, and a crash of the waves overflowing the skies, imagining herself in a flooded forest.

A grim prediction, yet an early call for what's to come.

Maybe she'll use her power as an advantage.

Chapter **10**

In the middle of the day, it still rained. Those were the tears of one with the skies who watch the turn of events going down. Though it is calm and barely seen, the darkness remained, holding the past ghosts in chains of their own misery.

The lingering thought of an alliance entices the SaguaroClan leader. Some of the members expresses other thoughts that greatly oppose the alliance, and Fern'flame is one of them. "You can't accept that leader's trust! Who knows what will happen if we follow his lead?" The she-cat stops him from going further out from his den. Her eyes were silently pleading him to listen her reasoning. She never thought this day would come, but she never wanted the clan to fall from grace in the fault of Stone'star's influence.

Ember'star moves his head, wanting to avoid his mate at all costs. "We have no choice; we're living in a hellhole we call as home and yet you want to reject this? We're dying, Fern'flame! Don't be selfish!" He shouts at her face, shoving her away as he exits the den, spreading tension among all of the other warriors who observed them. "No!" The she-cat bats his shoulder, her body blocking his way from moving. "This is a mistake! We **DESERVE** our independence!" She was now yelling at him, showing her refusal even if some of the warriors intervened. "If you were a real warrior, you'll stand up to him and say no!"

A senior warrior's voice rang between them. "Let the tom do what he wants!" Vulture'glide says. "You're making it worse!"

The others would nod in support, but a few, even the two apprentices turn their head in realization to the problem they are in. Scarcity and diseases, there were no other chances. Ember'star's ear flickers when hearing many cats standing on the outside of their open camp. A silhouette behind a veil of fog resembles of a dark figure with horns and a teethy sneer. The young kits would've

thought it was the great dark forest, but seeing the blue eyes was eerily comforting, despite a status given from other clan members. Stone'star stood there with some of his warriors on his side.

"Ah, my good friend." His tilts his head, his eyes never left from staring down at the leader in desperate need. "I believe there is time for the meeting to start, hm? I heard that there was some arguing between you and this beauty right here." He eyes at Fern'flame before turning back to the leader. "But there are many important things we need to discuss, if you don't mind the privacy, my great ally." He glances at the other warriors sitting down and watching him as if he was a creation from the stars itself. Ember'star scoffs, pushing his mate aside. "Let them watch, you'll always do the greater good for us, Stone'star."

"I can't thank you enough, **son.**" He sits down, easing his anxiousness and making himself home. He glances at his warriors began to dig into SaguaroClan's fresh-kill pile and bringing the prey to their leader. Fern'flame was pulled away to avoid any conflict, it was just the two leaders talking their heads off. "You're better than the ones I have." He says, now pulling a hare underneath his head and began feasting on the carcass. Ember'star tilts his head. "You have two sons?" He asks. Stone'star looks at the tom before staring out to the foggy forest. "I disowned my first one, and the other has passed."

The leader changes into a sympathetic expression. "I'm sorry." He bows his head. Stone'star looks at him and began to purr, showing no remorse. "For what? They broke the code, and disrespected StarClan. They're murderous, maybe even worse than dogs." He snorts, lowering his head and continue to chew the body parts of the small hare. For some reason, his lack of empathy puzzles many others and questioning his reason for that. But they all knew one thing, the white tiger was a despicable piece of crow-food.

"You may be thinking of my first-born." Stone'star began, his voice light-hearted and eerily tranquil. "A victim to his mother's spoiling that is that drove him to become the territory's biggest kit. He killed many cats, from twenty to fifty. He's something that we all don't want our future generations to become. Ice'watcher clearly let the dark forest take hold of him, bringing him further away from his

true faith." He stops focusing on the prey and was now staring at Ember'star's eyes. "Do you hear what I'm saying? Do you know why we're here?" He asks, his tone icy as the piercing cold to the leader's skin. His words weighed on his thoughts, and his mate's voice fading off as he dives in more of Stone'star's thoughts. Ember'star shook his head, his mind weak from his past stress. "I'm afraid not, I've been completely out of place since I became leader. I-... I don't know what will happen with the future of my clan."

"That's why you have me." He pushes the hare aside, now standing up to sit with his back straight. His shadow looms over Ember'star with his eyes continuing to gaze at him. "I'll protect your clan from ever falling apart just as how my firstborn did. All your problems will be gone in a blink of an eye."

"You don't say!" Ember'star exclaims, cackling. "By now, my clan will be back in their prime in no time!"

"Very well, son." Stone'star tilts his head, examining the tom with a somewhat fatherly feeling that he emitted to those who were vulnerable. Ember'star believed what was best for the clan, but what he didn't hear was Fern'flame's heart breaking. She was helpless. "I'll see your clan in our glorious mountains where there will be an abundance of prey and water. Leave your 'hellhole' to whoever will spread their own evils to. I expect a helping paw out of your members with no hesitation." He glances at the warriors who were watching from their dens. The fear and distrust in their eyes led them knowing what was going to happen. Either good, or bad.

"I'll make sure of it." The leader stands up, his head rising high and mighty as he sees the CavernClan leader standing above him, height wise. "You won't hear a complain out of my warriors, we'll treat your home with respect."

"I expect so." Stone'star nodded, now seeing the prey being discarded near the empty elder's den. Marigold'sage, scowling at him with disapproval. "I'll see you in the next sunrise." He flexes his paws onto the dirt before turning around and leaving. "**Don't miss this opportunity.**"

The camp is silent as the CavernClan warriors left. Ember'star still had much confidence to him being allies.

But what he doesn't know is the secrets being left behind that rooted to one or the other's destruction.

The white tiger observes this from the nearest cliff above.

Chapter 11

"**Hey, hey, get up!**"

The world was dead silent for a moment. All he heard was murmured voices echoing in both of his ears. He could feel his fur turning into small icicles as he found himself standing on the ground of a dark, snowy meadow. The light was barely seen, and the darkness took over every corner of the surrounding forest as the piercing cold caused the poor apprentice to tremble. His pupils shrunk, hearing a raspy voice of the white tiger lurking in the fog. The eyes in the skies were beginning to be covered by the thick clouds, and the snow turned red, being stained from the blood of the prey. Mushroom'paw begins to panic.

He was unsuccessful in moving his body now that his paws were frozen. The constant chatter and the laughing of each corner were making him go mad. He yelled and screamed until it was all too late.

The white tiger makes an appearance, pouncing at him with his claws out, and eyes redder than the blazes of fire.

Then, he hears his mentor's voice.

"**Get up! Now!**"

The apprentice jumps up, his heart left pounding. He's surrounded by River'lily, who was in the outskirts of camp and a random tom whom he first saw before blacking out. All he could remember was the white tiger standing in the distance as the remaining light dims away. The desperation of the loner still remained as he stared into the apprentice's eyes for the first time.

"Who... are you? Where am I?" He stirs his limbs and tries getting from the ground. River'lily had her paws firmly hold him down. "You need to rest. You almost met with death." She says as she takes

a look at his scratched body, her eyes expressing with great disappointment and hidden fear. She knew this was bound to happen. Her head then turns to the loner who is sitting in the dark corner of his hideout. The scars on his face told every story. "He won't give up until the rivers are stained in blood." His voice murmurs, now giving eye contact to both the mentor and the apprentice. "He's a danger to everyone."

"Who is this?" Mushroom'paw glances at Jacob, memorizing his voice from when he stood up to the white tiger. He acted erratically and couldn't stop trembling from the adrenaline. River'lily sighed, her voice softening. "An unlikely ally, Jacob." She says, now seeing his identity more clearly. The loner approaches them carefully, his eyes narrowing at the minor injuries, including the scar on his chest. "You made the biggest mistake mentioning a name that he knows from the past. He's already a spike to Stone'star's hip. It's that the father doesn't want to admit it."

"Typical." The medicine cat remarked, now putting a wet moss on Mushroom'paw's minor wound and to clean the dry blood off. "He can't go a day without being a nuisance. In this state we're in, he's bound to do something bad." Her face grew into intense worry, the prickling feeling on her back that felt like thin needles. "Like father, like son." She said, continuing to focus on her apprentice. "We just need a plan." Jacob began to pace around, his body movement firm and tense. "It'll be a matter of time before he does something with MurkClan."

"Can someone tell me what's going on!?" The apprentice's voice rang out of frustration. The tears were falling from his baggy eyes. He remained unbalanced and always slip and fell when attempting to get up from his weakened state. "Who was that cat chasing me down last night!?" His voice is raspy and almost breaking into the point of insanity and paranoia that was hiding underneath his skin for moons and moons. He couldn't take it anymore; he couldn't just lay on his behind and wait for the ancestors to answer him. River'lily could feel that cry of frustration that even she didn't know what to do.

"Ice'watcher." She answered, with a feeling of dread with her tone. The she-cat then glances at Jacob who was already silent, and then

back to her apprentice who had his eyes wide open. "He's Stone's first-born, a mad tom as we like to call it. He's a broken soul underneath his cold shell." She says, now staring out to the dark skies, where the nearest storm rumbled in mention of his name. "I deserve to know!" The tom says, now shoving her paws away from him. "Did you not see him chase me down last night? There were rogues everywhere! He's going to do something with MurkClan as we all know it!"

Jacob paused, his eyes narrowing at Mushroom'paw's words. His voice is low and firm, hinting danger, and pain behind it. "You'll want to know until he knows something you don't."

A sound of sharp wings was heard above them. There were cats, many were from SaguaroClan, ditching their territory. The blind was being led by High'sight, who agreed in request of Stone'star. Jacob's eyes dilated when seeing the cats becoming mindless, rabid predators who were now willingly getting into the sharp jaws of Stone. The valley also wasn't empty; there were echoes of patrols lurking deep in the thick fog. The hideout was quiet, with River'lily hushing both Jacob and Mushroom'paw who only heard the chatter of the warriors.

Unexpectedly, the medicine cat's senses began to increase when smelling a similar cat roaming with the enemy.

That is where both Dani and River'lily's eyes meet, the brown tuxedo being followed by Ravine'trout, and others.

Chapter **12**

The brothers hunted in the nearest prey grounds with many that still remained, others rotted or disappeared all so suddenly.

Dani remained in Red'fang's mind, but he never thought of her to roam endlessly and never coming back. She had spunk and independent thought; it was just the spark of the moment that made her want to clear her mind. He thought that this was all his fault to begin with. Though, Blaze'light grew skeptical. Bloom'moss wasn't physically there, yet they could feel her presence. Something didn't feel right, and that mindset began to brew further to both of the brothers' minds. "Don't you think there's always trouble in the air? It just takes one cat to make one happen." Blaze'light whispers to his brother, lurking in the tall grass with him in hopes of coming across a hare at least.

Red'fang's pupils darted at his brother, he became irritated. "I'm not forcing her to come back." He retorted. "She can do so if she wants to. I have no control." His tail lashes between the grass, hitting the ground silently. His eyes were locked on an avian standing on the lowest branch close to the ground. It was a hawk, who stood there with a hard glare, as if it was observing the two brothers. "I **know** that." The ginger tom responded. "I hope you realize she hasn't come back since yesterday. Me and Nash was looking for her while hunting."

"And she still hasn't picked any fights?" Red'fang takes a jab at his brother's mate, which made Blaze'light quiet for a moment. He did want to snap at him, but just from a single brief flash-back would bottle all those things into a stuffed chest. "Yeah, with me." He responds in an emotionless manner, holding his venomous remarks. Red'fang rose from the ground, his eyes growing into worry seeing his brother. "Don't be like that." He says, now forgetting about the hawk. "What were you two arguing about?" He sits down, focusing on his brother who he refused to leave him struggle like that.

Blaze'light found himself hard to admit what he wanted to say next.

"She cares a lot about you more than she cares about me."

He sits on top of the nearest rock, now staring onto the moist dirt below him. The memories unfurling from what he truly has been holding on for a long time, fading off with what was left of his love for them. "It doesn't seem like it to you, but-... the things she does or say, it weighs heavy." He looks at Red'fang showing his exposure to his own emotions. "Am I useless?"

Those words left a void in the older loner's heart. It was something that he had known for a long-time rooting back to their earliest memories together. He hated that thought knowing that he had always been the second option when around their father. Sometimes, he was just a mere smudge on a glass window. Red'fang sighed, shaking his head with a firm look on his face. "Those thoughts can die for all I care; you were never useless to begin with." He says, now expression tensing from every moment he sees **Thorn** in him. "Don't let that plague your mind."

Blaze'light could feel the thoughts lingering off, but there were still doubts. "If anything, I wish I could go back and prove myself, you know?" The wind passes by his fur, causing his ears to move subtly. The feeling of serenity being around his only kin, gave peace to Red'fang's mind. The tom would nod, now silent from their conversation, but it was a good kind of silence.

But then, something moves from the nearest bush. Blaze'light makes a sharp turn, the two brothers glaring at what moved behind them. The two began to lash their tails and unsheathe their claws in preparation for a claw-down if needed. However, the results were rather surprising. "Who goes there?" Red'fang makes a rough call to the hidden figure, who emerges behind a tree, revealed as Opal'paw. Blaze'light was still heavily defensive, whilst Red'fang stood there. There were many thoughts in all of their minds. Confusion, surprise, and curiosity. Why did she decide to come back?

"Who-... where-..." Red'fang stumbled on his words, he didn't know what to say at this point. "Are **you** trying to get yourself **killed**?" He

chided, his tail continuing to whip the grass. His eyes narrowing at each step the she-cat took. He didn't want to hurt her; he was mostly confused and troubled if she was there to spy on them. Opal'paw tilts her head and then lowered her form and rolled on her back. Normally, a cat would've spoked back, but this was quite odd. The two brothers weren't dumb, but they still remained confused.

"Do you know where you are?" Blaze'light asks, his tone softening since he may have thought that she was either nervous or had trouble speaking. Opal'paw rolls onto her belly, nodding. She began to mew, her body immediately standing up and began running off. She does abruptly stop, wanting the brothers to follow. They exchange looks at one another and then trotted off to follow Opal'paw who was going to the ledge above the valley.

That is when Red'fang sees the marching patrol cats nearing to the entrance, where the barn was located, with only Jade and Nash in it.

To add wood to the fire, there was Dani, locking eyes with him.

Chapter **13**

"**THERE HE IS!**" A warrior cried, yowling at the wanted loner standing on the ledge.

The patrol began to split up as they began to run on all sides and went for the tunnels that had shortcuts. The others went up the hill of the entrance, with their claws unsheathed and ready for battle. Red'fang quickly pulls Blaze'light away by biting down his scruff. "Get back! Tell them that we need to get out of the barn no**w!**"

"What about you!?" The younger brother stood there, his eyes focused on the warriors running up to the hill and quickly making their way. Those scarlet eyes glowed intensely, and Red'fang snarls at his brother. "I said **GO!**" He shoves him away as an apprentice named Eagle'paw jumps from the bush and leaps at the two brothers who were temporarily separated. Opal'paw stood away before being seen by the other cats who had spotted her silhouette over the fog. She didn't know what to do, but she may have thought her presence had made things worse.

Red'fang clawed his bottom jaw, making him slip and fall onto their belly. Snow'falcon ambushes him from his back side, sinking his claws onto his shoulder blades. His left paw was now gripping the white fur on his throat, where the wound that was supposed to kill him still remained. "You're making this hard for yourself!" He hisses, now biting his back neck down.

"Get off of me! You don't know the full story!" The brown tom grunted. He uses his arms to pull himself back up and slip onto his back, crushing the tom below him. A fellow warrior, Cloud'scream makes her way up the hill. Her strong legs picked up speed and then jumped at Red'fang to pin him down. The tom was easily overwhelmed, and he truly held himself back from losing it to those who were in the way. His brother refused to leave him and came back with both she-cats who saw him struggling with the three cats.

Nash quickly runs into Cloud'scream, head-butting her and causing both of them to fall over. Blaze'light and Jade went after Eagle'paw, who took off running shortly after. Red'fang sinks his fangs onto Snow'falcon's arm and rolling off of him, pinning the warrior onto the ground. His claws gripped his chest and caused a small scar, and his sharp pupils stared down at the outnumbered warrior. The blades of his shoulders bled, and his muscles pulsing underneath his thick skin. The sun marking began to burn again and again when being near to the enemy. His glare was the hawk looming over a mouse that had its tail tangled over those talons. Snow'falcon, who was bold beforehand, left with fear in his eyes.

Unfortunately for the group, this was only the beginning to many more nuisances in their way as they close in on the tom.

Meanwhile, the small group in the hideout makes a run for it. River'lily could've gone the other way, but knowing that Red'fang was there, she couldn't leave him outnumbered. "Come on!" She pressures the two cats to run with her, the two chasing the wind as they follow the fading shadows going deep into the fog and then up. Dani, now standing on the clearing as all cats began to crowd the loner, it gave her guilt now that she had sold her friends to free herself. She was helpless and only watched as those cats fight for their lives on both sides.

Jade held down on her own, being met with insults by others who thought that she had grown close to the dark forest. Her eyes gleamed with a spark as she focused on her sly movement to ambush from behind. Alpine'growl was distracted, trying to look for the she-cat who had hidden in the bushes, creeping behind him. Jade's pupils dilated. She then sped from the bush and gripped her claws on the warrior's back, now forcefully dragging him down and slamming his head onto the ground Her paws kneaded his chest; her other claw now scarring his eyes and causing blood to pour over his muzzle. Alpine'growl yowled out of agonizing pain, his claws grip her hip and pushed her back onto a tree.

"You mouse-brain! Get her off of me!" Nash yells at Blaze'light, who already had enough on his paws when the two cats began to gang up and pin her down."I'm **TRYING!**" He roared, his voice raising at her for the first time that even made Red'fang shocked for a

moment. Blaze'light clawed the face of one of the cats before focusing on the main one that went after him in the first place. Opal'paw didn't hesitate to answer Nash's call as she jumped at one of the two cats, now biting down on their neck and getting them away from her.

But as she continues to fight her hardest, she overhears the two cats now fighting dangerously close over the valley's edge.

Still, Red'fang retains his focus as he and Ravine'trout continue to fight, with many of the blood spilling. Those words he heard out of the she-cat's mouth, he couldn't lose control and hurt other cats just as what he had done to Summit'rush.

"You won't be anything once I finish you off!" Ravine'trout claws the neck of Red'fang, with blood spewing from his already slit wound. "You'll always be a remnant of CavernClan. All of our misery is on **YOU!**" She shoves him back, nearly off the ledge and down to the valley. Red'fang's vision was starting to go blank, his combat slowing down when the pain began to sink in. He was now on square one, being reminded by dying in that dark cave where the light-cream tom who stood over him, with words berating his past and his accomplices that all went stale the moment the moonstone broke.

A red streak broke the skies, causing the clouds to distance and circle them. His body trembled like the ground cracking open and the stalactites falling before him. Then there's the voice behind his ears, a lingering voice of the light he craved for the longest. The ringing in one of his ears changes to a soft cry of an old mate. The world slows down. In his peripheral vision, he could see River'lily coming up from the hill and yelling out of anger and fear. He thought he was going to die right there, but **she** had given him a reason to live.

"**RED'FANG!**"

Her voice broke the fighting, and the area was quiet.

The luminous marking prevailed with a red aura spreading over Red'fang's body. Ravine'trout had gotten distracted for a moment,

leading up to the tom taking advantage of her. His claws then suddenly sunk into the she-cat's throat. The two stood on their hind legs. The loner stumbled over, gripping her body over the air and shoving her off the cliff. The warrior could barely speak. Her vocal cords were too damaged to make one last fight. Her body had grown weak. However, life fell from her eyes as the world tilts over. She falls right into the abyss as her blood follows.

The cats stopped fighting, standing in disbelief. There was always first for everything, though this had completely changed everything.

Quickly, cats began to desert out of fear. Opal'paw was pushed off of one of them, and quickly, she ran close to the edge. There was still a tinge of worry. She mewls out to the empty valley when seeing her mentor's body go limp.

Jade and Jacob couldn't let them run without venting their own issues by fighting. Though the she-cat believed that Jacob had way bigger problems the moment he leaps at the bleeding Alpine'growl, and tore him down from head to toe. "You dare bring your clan towards us!? **Do you not have honor!?**" He makes the wound deeper with the use of his claws. The tom yowled in pain, trying to block him from making the pain worse. Unfortunately for him, it was already too late.

As the two went at it, even though the battle had already been over. The others stood there, with shock all over their faces. Dani was already gone from when she saw the medicine cat.

So now it was just them, in uncomfortable silence, listening to Opal'paw's grief.

Red'fang stood there, his expression blank and lifeless. He then passes out, a panicked yell is heard.

Chapter **14**

The news of escaped clan members, and deaths of the two warriors sent shockwaves through the clans.

This didn't phase Stone'star, he still found himself at the top. MurkClan was at this close of allying with him, giving him more power. Shingle'star was still firm about her decision, but her warriors were starting to believe that maybe they're better off being under the care of CavernClan. With all the resources provided, it had become tempting with the others.

Speaking of Stone'star, he became **too** comfortable with his position. SaguaroClan had fallen, and the two clans were on good terms, though his control was starting to strengthen. Apprentices weren't allowed to roam in different territories other than patrolling. Brutal punishment was encouraged if a cat has acted defiantly to Stone'star and Ember'star. Obedience to StarClan in all ages had become an everyday thing, from the break of dawn, to the setting of dusk. They had to answer their two leaders to every call, if not, they were expected to keep their maws shut and fill-up the prey and herb pile.

It appeared to Ivory'hiss that this wasn't a clan anymore, and those cats weren't the warriors that were gloated to them at a young age. They were acolytes, to what they saw Stone'star as a prophet from StarClan. It was an insult to her and Primrose'dawn, but the two cats already knew this was going to happen at the start of their 'alliance'. Now it was up to her, to carry on what remained of the light above the clouds, and the stars. It was something greater, than what no one imagined.

At night, she stares into the ruined moon cave, with the entrance being blocked by fallen rocks. She does, however, find a small hole on the side hidden by fallen trees that she had access to. The winds are heavy, and the trees creaked. There were small critters hunted as prey, croaking as they roamed into the cave, and die when gazing into a mysterious blue light. Ivory'hiss could've known there

was going to be an omen about Stone'star. The lively growth of the forest is destroyed when bordering the broken crystal that was once the symbol of hope.

She takes a step further into the dark cave. Then, her heart stops, and her fur is bristled by the unexpected freezing air that numbed her body as a tiger's roar is heard. The cave trembled, her hackles were risen with agitation. It happened so abruptly that all she can hear is her heart creating a quick, ominous rhythm that made her think that someone was watching her. The blue light was driving her to move closer despite her rejection to the hypnotic nature of the ruined moonstone. This was a warning, a warning to **Stone'star**.

She couldn't hear a low growl above her, but she can feel its vibration.

Ice'watcher overhears a quiet melody away from his group and to the moon cave, given by a vision of his own freedom from the chains of the past. His perspective was different to what the medicine cat saw, he could see a white tiger climbing up the moonstone and roaring with power and ferocity, crumbling the grounds completely with its powerful might. The aura grew brighter as he finally see the full vision of his future. The harsh cold burns his scars, but his pain is what made him stronger.

His eyes narrowed, seeing Ivory'hiss approaching the 'formed' moonstone. His heart quickened, and his claws unsheathed. He jumps off the ledge and went after the lone medicine cat without warning. Ivory'hiss quickly turns around, and was scarred on her hip. She moves out of the way, narrowly dodges his attack. Ice'watcher stood on his two legs and tries to launch at her again. The medicine cat took control, and clawed his left side of his face and slamming him down on the ground. Quickly, she took off running without ever looking back.

"**GET BACK HERE!**" His voice roared in synchronization with the tiger as he runs sideways onto the wall with his claws scraping the rough surface. His eyes were filled with bloodshed and hunger, he believed that Ivory'hiss had claimed his power and is now taking off running with it. He leaps at her again, and scars her chest, causing

blood to pour and stain both of their fur. Ivory'hiss choked, her sight turning red as Ice'watcher pins her onto the ground and attempt to tear open her belly and let the organs dress her as one big present to him

Though, he didn't notice her reaching over the nearest rock shard. There were difficulties using anything but her claws since her paws couldn't grip the shard properly. Fortunately, he was able to use her other paw to bat his head and then stab his left eye with the rock. Ice'watcher caterwauled in horror and releases his grip off of Ivory'hiss and stumbled back.

"**Take this as her retribution, son of Stone!**" The she-cat hisses, and harshly pushes him onto wall, causing the rocks to fall.

She then runs off, feeling the cave shaking as the blue light fades away. She was lucky to escape through the small hole before Ice'watcher runs at her with a bleeding eye, obviously angered that his prey was now slipping away.

The rocks fully block the hole off, and the growls of the tiger turns into a pitiful mewls of a kit.

The adrenaline kept her running, Ivory'hiss couldn't find any end to her pain from both her hips and her chest. Her limbs were starting to tire from what felt like forever of running away from what believed to be the future of CavernClan. However, a hawk chirped above her. The avian guided her back to the mountains when her vision was temporarily impaired due to the blood staining all over her face.

Luckily, she was seen by the fellow medicine cat, Primrose'dawn who was out on herb patrol, and came across the weakened she-cat who screamed in the tom of her lungs.

"HE'S BACK!" She cried, now collapsing in front of him, the tom didn't hesitate.

"**THE WHITE TIGER HAS RETURNED!**"

Chapter **15**

"**Do you not love me?**" An older kit, close to apprentice age begged to his mother who refused to stare at him in the eye.

"**Love is weak. You don't know what it takes until you lose someone.**" The dark-brown, long-furred tabby retorted to her son and pushed him away from the sight of many curious warriors. Her eyes were filled with grief and disgust as she turned away in hopes that all those memories could fade away. She hated that she had to tell him this, and she hated that his existence had ruined her and many of her own relationships.

"**You'll just be a living vessel of him. It's all I ever see in you.**"

Red'fang woke up in a bed of moss with cobwebs and poultice mixes onto his throat and his other wounds. He assumed River'lily had done the job. His mind was all revolved around everything that had happened before this. He could remember his father... no, **Thorn** scarring his mother and brother many times as the young Red'paw was taken away from his family to spend nine moons in CavernClan. His mind was still foggy after that, but he could remember the scarring pain on his scruff when he was thrown into the wolves that lived in the mountains.

He feels disoriented. All he could see was a flicker of light standing by his side. Bloom'moss sat there, appearing to be stressed from what has been happening over a few days. The group was lucky to stay hidden while Red'fang fell unconscious for a good while. The first thing he did was to raise his head up and stare at his guardian. His voice came out in a low, hoarse whisper. "How.. long?" The ends of his whiskers curled, and his tongue dry. "Three sunrises." She replied, now moving closer to inspect him and his fixed wounds.

"That long? How did -.." He stopped, raising his right arm to realize that the marking had turned into a deep glow of blood red. The spiky, outer surface of the mark spiraled all over his arm. It created

a fiery symbol that had grown all over his shoulder and to his backside. It blended in well with the scars that gave him the appearance of an ancient hero. Though, he wasn't the only one to notice this. Bloom'moss hummed, impressed of his marking. "Something a two-leg could make an inspiration of to have their skins marked. You look like you have red paint spill all over you."

"Ha, ha." The tom makes a sarcastic laugh to her words. "These cats are blind when they don't see what's happening to me. All they want is my head as their decoration." He lies on his belly, now glancing at the StarClan cat who agreed only a little to his words. "You may be right, but also wrong. They **know** what they see. They just don't want to confront it." She looks away for a second, noticing Blaze'light watching them far away. She glances at his arm, though unseen by his brother. Red'fang was left is dismay from Bloom'moss' vagueness. There's something wrong with him, and she should've known. "So you're just going to let me fend for myself?" He asks her, his voice growing increasingly bitter. "I can't just live knowing that there's a sickness in me."

"You're not sick." Bloom'moss responds to him, now staring directly into his red eyes. "You have power, power that not even StarClan could reach. Wherever the light touches, it will reveal everything."

It was confusing. He had never seen anything that's light in his entire life. It was all up to him in order to figure out why things have been happening and maybe find a way to deal with CavernClan. His eyes widen when seeing Jade in the distance, and the thoughts of their second conversation stuck to his mind. He cursed himself for snapping at his guardian. He stood up, stretching his body before getting ready to go and meet up with her. Before he left the small den, he turned around at her and apologized.

"Hey, I-.. uh.. I'm sorry. For what I said a minute ago."

This surprises the StarClan cat. For something so random yet so meaningful, she had never heard those words out of Red'fang's maw. It was almost.. endearing.

"I forgive you." She nodded, watching him depart the area with a low purr. It wasn't much, but it had made an impact on their

strained relationship. Red'fang trotted off, feeling strangely warm for what he had said. The feeling began to strengthen when going near Jade with an unsettled look on his face. Jade pupils grew in seeing his new marking. There were also a few cats, such as Opal'paw, who stood away from everyone else, grieving in silence. Nash was nowhere to be found, and the three cats had temporarily disappeared.

"What's with the new look?" Jade sat there, her eyes examining the large mark that had spread over half of his body. Red'fang stares at it again, there was still throbbing on the arm that bled red all over his paws. What he could remember was the shrine that had light shining on directly to the cats holding the sun. Had it been known that life had brought him to this shrine for a reason? Or was it the curse of StarClan leading him down a false prophecy? Although, he believed the second option less now that he was distancing himself from the paranoia and the bad memories. Bloom'moss was quite straightforward with her answer. This was one's doing, or if something is leading him to find out the truth.

"It's something personal." Red'fang answered in a gruff tone. "I've been having bad dreams lately. Is.. is River'lily alright, at least?"

"She is. She's just out and patrolling with the others. Nash and Blaze'light.. seems to be on a rocky situation." Jade looks away, her face tense from the argument that had to butt in for the second time.

Red'fang purred humorously. He found himself to grow fond over her in a short time. "It's a lot. I, myself, had to be a victim to it."

Jade tilts her head, he had more experience, including the personal drama, but all of those things are irrelevant to her. But she also noticed the way he looked. It made her worried. It wasn't something that she had seen before. "Is it the past taunting you again?" She asks, now walking to the other side of the den and sitting down on a moss bed. Red'fang didn't think she would want to sit with him, but he did, and followed to sit next to her. "It is, actually. I don't think I've forgiven much for it." He looks at her, hoping she could see that he was actually following her words for once. The thought of it, however, was rather intimidating. "I- I don't know, Jade. I

don't know if I ever can go back to being the way I was. I couldn't be taught about apologizing in the past."

"It's a personal struggle that I even have trouble doing that. An apology is only meaningful if you're willing to change for it.. which my mother had failed to do, but that's on her." Jade lowers her head onto her arms, her eyes looking up at Red'fang, who had his tail unconsciously on top of her back. It was fluffy, almost ticklish. Her eyes briefly closed as she purred from the feathery feeling of it. "The past can only forgive if it wants, Red'fang." Her flat nose touched his paws when seeing him ponder. It was a small act of comfort that was only expressed by her childish behavior. Red'fang was caught out of his trance for a moment. For the first time, he felt his heart slowing down to a reasonable pattern. The smallest thing was giving him a chuckle.

"You speak like an elder. Can you give me a vision of the past, grayfur?" He jokingly retorts, batting her head with his paw. Although she is amused, Jade finds herself to be distracted by something, her eyes dilating of a speck light raining over the skies.

"You don't see that?" She gestured her paws, Red'fang glances over her head to see the reflection of a white orb as well. The call of the hawk echoed behind the back of his ears, and the tom could smell the earthy scent of rain.

It was gloomy and dark. It had started to rain hard, but the light remained in its ultimate glory.

"Oh my-.." Red'fang took a step outside, the wind charges at his face in full force. The rain pummeled in and created a disturbance inside the den. "What's happening!?" Blaze'light shouted, his eyes growing wide. An aching pain from the short battle caused him to limp. Jade's eyes narrowed, now seeing the outskirts of the forest submerged in water with quick speed. That's when she yowled as loud as she could, spotting the three cats coming back up the hill.

"**FLOOD!**"

Chapter **16**

(This chapter is going to be a long one since it'll be split into two parts.)

The Warning

"More space! Move it! Move it!" The voice of Cactus'bite rang across the new warrior's den, breaking the silence with her authoritative calls.

MurkClan is planning on moving in, so everything needed to be spaced in an orderly manner or things will start getting cramped. More influence means more power, and that was starting to become a problem. Ivory'hiss stayed in the medicine den, while getting her wounds fixed. The assault from that cave was the final thing that made things tumble down, from one thing to another. She also had to go out of her way to help alongside of Primrose'dawn to nurse most of their clan members back to health. It was a time where they needed the help they deserve, though their leaders were more focused on one thing, themselves.

It was time that she needed to confront Stone'star, she knew now that the clan will be in great danger soon if he doesn't let go of his ways of what he believed were for good.

Finishing up the last of her tasks, she exits the crowded den and looks around. She knew Stone'star wasn't in his den since he had lots of things going on. with the alliances. The medicine cat also notice how empty the pile is, with little to no food that only the patrol could access from what was given from StarClan. The lack of life running in that land could take many lives alone by starvation, dehydration, and sickness. The two leaders didn't see what they were signing up for. She approaches one of the warriors, Fern'flame, who were close with SaguaroClan's leader as his supposed 'mate'.

"Where are the two leaders?" She asked the she-cat in an exhausted tone. Her eyes growing baggy, and she limps from the injury that is still present on her body. She never rested well enough to let the scars actually heal. "At the top." Fern'flame deadpanned, the lack of life is shown on her face when she finally gave up everything. "Unless you want to speak with Ember'star about the alliance, it'll be like speaking to a boulder." She turns her head away, hiding the anger that is evident on her face. Ivory'hiss could tell there were things going between them, and it wasn't just the doomed alliance.

"You knew?" Ivory'hiss' voice grows quiet the moment she reference something that was a rumor between each clan. Just from the thought of it made the she-cat question with a hint of sorrow in her voice. "It's Gail'sprint, isn't it?" Fern'flame spoke to the medicine cat, desperate of an answer, that not even Ivory'hiss herself knew the answer to that. Though, she could assume the worst when that she-cat had always disappear at the right time. "I can't prove anything." She shakes her head. "I wish you the best."

Fern'flame remained quiet, unsure if this was true. Though, she was itching more into her own answers. She glance at the queen in the distance, before staring down at the ground. Ivory'hiss watch her, feeling helpless of the situation. But she has a bigger mission to fulfill, and shortly left the clearing as she makes her way to the top.

Midway to the top, she could hear Stone'star conversate with his 'son'.

The low-toned voice of his charm getting in to the right place. Her heart skips a beat when a name was mentioned into their little conversation. A name that not one had heard in a long time, **Hawk'song**. She stood there on the entrance to the top cave, watching them as they completely ignore her existence. Stone'star did bat an eye at her for a moment, obviously annoyed that she had picked this time to talk to him when he should be doing whatever he does on his own time. This irritated the medicine cat, it was a recalling behavior to him ignoring her when things go out of hand.

"We need to talk." She interrupts Ember'star, who turns around with a confused expression. Stone'star kept his charming demeanor. Coming from his ominously chilling, and aggravated voice, he was

quite angry. "Can't you see **we're** talking?" He responded, forcing his attention on the inferior. The two had disliked each other for a long time, but Ivory'hiss grew into immense hatred for his blissful ignorance. "I'm sorry to interrupt your soul feeding, Stone'star. We have many problems in our plate and you have yet to address them."

"I don't need to address them." Stone'star remarked, his tail hovering over Ember'star's back as he turns his head away from her. Ivory'hiss looked so different, but the personality was there. It had reminded him of **her**. "This alliance is going great until you said something." His blue eyes flicker under a streak of light that shined on the two leaders. It was thought of StarClan believing him those words of hope and what he saw in his own dreams. Ivory'hiss' face recoiled, catching an immediate lie from what she had saw earlier. "Do you not notice the damage being done? Your cats are starving!"

"StarClan's blessings are only limited to those who they saw as worthy. By now, our resources will be abundant when the stars return to us-"

"**Look outside**!" Ivory'hiss shouts at him, her voice loud enough that even made Ember'star flinch. "There are no prey, and there is no water! Everything has been dried up! Everything!" She moves to the other side of the cave, where she stood on top of the ledge. There, she revealed the immense fog, and what it became the darkest night. That light above the two leaders began to dim, Ember'star separated himself from Stone'star as things began to turn over. He was still on his side, but he didn't know how to confront what was happening. It made him weak, useless even.

It was so dark that not even one cat could see anything, patrols were pulled back because of how quick things changed. The only source of light was the lightning behind a wall of clouds bordering the large island.

They lived in a lifestyle that changed only the little things, but the collapse of the moonstone is what drew their fate. Stone'star found it hard to believe that. The hidden fear is what made him snap. "You dare disregard my words? You take the things for granted and expect me to be on your side? You're selfish, you're evil! You're just

as evil as your sister!" He quickly approaches her, with his shadow covering her body. Ivory'hiss remained in a stagnant position, never once took a step away from the leader whom she feared long ago.

"I'm only warning you, and that'll be the only time I've taken up for you, for everyone in this so-called clan!" Her tail battered the cold ground, her claws were unsheathed as he gotten extremely close to the medicine cat. He whispers at her, with a cold, uncharacteristic timbre with a blank, emotionless stare. He didn't notice that Dani was watching the entire thing, standing in the entrance.

"**If you raise your voice at me, I'll make sure you'll be the one to pick up your jaw off the ground.**"

This threat didn't scare her He had become another leader behind the light that is shone to him. It was about time to where she had grown used to him. Though, he is stronger and more combative due to his past mentor being his father. She ultimately had to back down for her own safety. The cave is now silent, where the medicine cat distancing herself away from him. His eyes stuck to her with a hint of arrogance and victory knowing that this is a game he is always going to win in. There was no point of Ivory'hiss trying to convince him once more. But, she had one more thing to say.

"If you continue down this path, Stone'star, your kin will destroy everything you have ever worked for. Only there is light that'll guide your path to do the right thing... but I believe not."

This was something he truly didn't want to face, his expression change the moment her words were sinking in amid the silence. She bumps shoulders with Dani who she gave glares at for many things that was caused by her.

As she walks away, it left his wondering who will be the one to do that.

The Insurrection

"What more do they want from me?" The BeachClan leader speaks

to her deputy, her expression growing more into frustration as the words spread. "I'm doing this all for their safety, isn't what they wanted?"

Dune'gale shook his head, the outer walls of the cave being slammed by the waves from the high tides of water that flooded the shores. "I believe we deserve more, we can't just stay in here for too long. We've already lost one, and the tides are flooding the territory." The deputy stood over the she-cat, the wind hitting his back as a crowd of warriors became louder from those who wanted to follow Stone'star. Shingle'star is hit with the stress that came with this debate. Either she had to do this for the greater good, or risk everyone's lives to be drowned by the seas' violent embrace.

"I refuse!" Shingle'star yelled out from the cave, now standing on her four legs and walking past her deputy who watched with a shocked look. The warriors watched as their leader emerges from her den, scolding at them. "Do you not realize what Stone'star stands for!? He's standing for the complete opposite! He'll use us and mold our clan to whatever he wanted, he'll ruin us!" She took a step forward towards the warriors, fearlessly standing on her own viewpoint of what she believed. But when two stubborn cats meet, nothing will end in peace and with proper understanding. It was a war with words being thrown around like daggers.

"We are not safe!" Crab'snap retorts with her claws being unsheathed. "If you care about us, you'll let us desert this place once and for all!" She moves dangerously close to the leader, as if wanting to teach her a lesson. "You're blinded by greed, Crab'snap! Let it go!" The elder Rocky'spear cried, now blocking both of the she-cats in hopes of preventing violence between leader and warrior. Though, his attempts were futile. "We've broke our backs and risked our breath to hunt and provide for our clan. We cannot do this any longer!" Another warrior, Palm'ivy stood alongside with Crab'snap. The control of her clan was starting to crumble.

"You are all **fools**!" Shingle'star snaps at all of the cats who were surrounding her. She glares at Dune'gale, hoping there could at least be a supporting matter to her decision. But her deputy seems to turn a blind eye, realizing that he was outnumbered.

"You.. are all **FOOLS**!" The leader repeated, now backing away to the other side of camp where the opening is close. Still, she makes one last fight in the battle for the clan's independence. "You are blinded by greed, by StarClan's message that hasn't been given over the last few quarter-moons, and you expect me to agree what that leader said!? All he's saying are lies! Everything that he promised are lies. Look at Ember'star! Look at Marsh'star! Look at US!"

"There's nothing we can do but to find a way to survive, Shingle'star." Conch'song appeared behind the crowd, his eyes dull from the loss of hope for this clan. It was also noticeable how exhausted he looked, as well as the others who grew tired to sitting there, waiting for things to change. The poor cats didn't know that the end is already happening just in the distance of it. Where darkness clouded in on the walls of fog, covering the ocean, and what was outside of the island territory itself. "We have no choice."

"If that's what you think," Shingle'star hesitated, her heart rapidly pounding from her being surrounded by angry warriors that struggled finding peace, and disregarding their original traits of what is like in BeachClan. Where they minded their business, and embrace life itself, to having war with the leader they thought could be trusted. "Then you'll be happy to live without a leader." Said Shingle'star, her shoulders slumping, and her head bowing in defeat. "I find no honor in this broken territory, only the blind will follow the blinded. Its how it was, and how it will **always** be."

The warriors stood quietly, they couldn't believe their ears to what came out of Shingle'star's maw. Though, they weren't happy, nor were they sad. It was actually out of fear. To what was one of the most active leaders, who was prone in making rational decisions for the greater good, had fallen from her role. All memories were lost, and the clan was starting to fade behind her as she turns around, and walked away. The waves disappeared, the paws drifted across the flooded puddles, turning the opposite way. Her tail swung low, and her head staring onto the ground, reflecting off the last of the good memories she had with her clan moons ago before everything happened.

This wasn't the end just yet, this was a good starting point to the plan of the white tiger.

For what felt like forever, she stood on top of a ledge, staring out in the foggy forest where the smell of blood diffused across the air of the dark meadows. The wind is strangely cold, that numbed her paws and face the moment she took a step further. Her senses were heightened, and her body became lethargic. She could barely move from her position, almost as if her body became paralyzed from a deep growl above the creaking trees. The peaceful ambience of the forest is no more, the moment the growl turn into a full blown roar.

Ice'watcher abruptly jumped at Shingle'star, the former leader instantly wraps her arms around the tom's back as the two roll over the ledge and onto the ground where she injures her back. She is separated by the white tiger, her paw wrapped around her chest as her heart started to slam onto her hard enough that it felt like a heart attack. Her breathing stops, and her body collapsed on the sight of the sadistic rogue who stood there with his eyes bluer as a sapphire. He lets out a breathless laugh, now standing over Shingle'star with a bloodied face. "I was starting to think that I may have been forgotten by you all." He then slowly corners her to the dead end, where a wall blocks her escape.

His paw press the leader down onto the ground. His claw began to make bloody marks across her underfur. Shingle'star writhed and had her hind legs kick the large tom off of her. Due to his weight and strength, it was comically underwhelming. "I never would've thought that you'll live to see us tear each other apart.." She grips his arm, her eyes watery and empathetic instead of anger. "You know your mother will be disappointed in you." She coughed, the tears falling from her eyes as she saw the ego in him, weakening.

He couldn't find himself to kill her just yet as the memories clouded his mind. Whatever his mother could've done, she wanted what was best for him. To never be like his father. But that led to many painful memories, even thinking that it was she who caused it all to happen. He tighten his grip on her, his eyes turning back into anger and his usual ruthlessness he displayed onto whom he called as his enemy. "I only seek the future, the past have no power over me. They **hated** me, don't you understand that?" His voice his eerily low, and struck by hidden grief. "**I** only get to have control over my

life, not you, not **anyone.**"

"You don't understand! She loved you! She knew what was best for you!" Shingle'star began to wiggle from his grip in distress. She could see the spark of hoping in his eyes, or what she thought in her own perspective. "She wanted you to become a great warrior and find your own **destiny** without causing **fear** and **pain** to the vulnerable! And now look at you! You're making her memory worse, you'll never find peace if this is how you live-!"

"**SILENCE!**" The tom roared as his claws went across of Shingle'star's throat with quickness. The blood painted the trees and the nearest rocks. He was so blinded by his own fury that he didn't realize the BeachClan warriors had came across a bloody scene. They had the numbers to fight their former leader's murderer, but now it had far been too late. The she-cat choked on her own blood, gurgling from her mouth and the movement of her body dying off as the death rattle is heard.

He took one deep breath, slowly turning his face away from her, and to the warriors who were stuck in their place. Those several lives draining from Shingle'star as the blood follow the streams ahead of her. Her life couldn't be supported by StarClan, since they weren't in power long enough to support that. She was finding serenity into the cold ground, where she laid dying.

This was the end of BeachClan, but the beginning of a poisonous era.

Chapter **17 (TW⚠)**

(**HEAVY TW, CAN BE SKIPPED IF NEEDED!!**)

The water instantly pushes through as the cats are stuck onto a floating tree.

"Hang on!" Jacob swam on the sidelines while River'lily stayed with the two apprentices. Her body stood over the two apprentices as she watched the water raging on and the storm becoming violent at a fast pace. Red'fang desperately claws his way through the waves, clinging onto Jade, who was unconscious the moment the first wave hits. The crescent on her forehead flickers, and her body is limp. "Please, Jade! Stay with me!" Red'fang moves his legs, his front arms holding the she-cat and forbid the stars to let her fade away from his paws. "OVER HERE!" Blaze'light's voice rang from the other side of the forest. He and Nash found the nearest cave, and he screamed loud and clear for his brother when standing on a ledge above the raging waters.

Meanwhile, Jacob gripped one of the branches as the tree crashed down the hill with the water reaching up to his lower jaw. Opal'paw felt that something else was lurking above and beyond the harsh rain and the darkness surrounding the area. With one strike to the trees where the bark fell, she could hear a growl and a hiss of two warring cats before one makes the fall. Many drops of blood stain the water, and the blue eyes hid in the shadows. Just a split second, she could see a shadow of a cat standing over the moving branch before falling onto the tree with a crooked jaw. The other was a slim, black tom who swam behind Jacob in an attempt to drown him.

Mushroom'paw didn't notice anything until he saw a rogue pouncing River'lily.

"**LOOK OUT!**"

The medicine cat turns around before clawing at the tom's face. The

two cats slip from the tree and plunge into the water as one gets ahold of the other.

"RIVER'LILY!" Mushroom'paw shrieked, staying put with Opal'paw. Jacob struggled to break free, but he was able to use nature as his weapon when he grip Mamba's scruff and set him in the front to become his shield. The moving branches swung violently at the rogue, causing the two of them to be left behind, leaving the two apprentices to fend for themselves. Red'fang shoves Jade up to the ledge, his eyes flickering the color of red as he hears something behind him. Nash gasps, gesturing her paws at the apprentices as their screams are heard.

"There they are!" She shouts. "They're going to get themselves killed, Red'fang!"

Red'fang watched as the two apprentices clung onto what was left of the tree as it began to fall apart. It even made things worse when he couldn't see River'lily standing on the tree with them.
With panic in his eyes, he was determined to save everyone, but it won't be possible if one sacrificed themselves for the other. Quickly, he swam across the open ravine. His eyes flicker red, feeling the strength pulsing through his veins as he went after the other half of the tree. The wind shrieked and howled, and the storm cracked and boomed over the doomed forest. Blaze'light took the time to run to the opposite side where the opening of the cave was at.

Mushroom'paw nearly slips from the bark, with Opal'paw desperately holding his paws for dear life. The wind had gotten so powerful that this may have been no return of the group reuniting in good health. He already had thought that his mentor was long gone when he couldn't see her or Jacob. The eyes above the clouds had seen them running away from the home that was blessed by their ancestors. To see them disregarding the clans and StarClan itself, this flood was a way to enforce power. But to Red'fang, this was a personal battle between him and his tormentors of his inner peace. This is where his power was showing within himself.

With all of his might, his scars gave him power, and his arms pushed onto the tree in the use of force. The light in the clouds shined onto his back as his claws pierced the bark, shoving the tree

to the ledge where his brother sat and watched. He uses the high rising water as if advantage and yowl at Blaze'light while making the final push. Mushroom'paw balanced his way over the tearing bark, his arms shielding Opal'paw as he felt a harsh shove below them. There, he could see the mere cat pushing something that was larger than him. It took both apprentices' breath away, seeing his back legs paddling and his arms constantly pushing. It didn't take that long for them to spot Blaze'light, and the loner offering a paw for them to grab.

Red'fang didn't stop. However, hearing the cheering of the cats didn't mean anything. He had successfully saved the two apprentices, but there was a kit-hood friend, an old lover that he needed to save. He couldn't lose her just like how he had already lost Dani. He continues on, being met with lots of difficulties in his paws. "Red'fang..? **RED'FANG!**" Blaze'light yells at the top of his lungs, the apprentices dried out in the cave with Nash and the unconscious Jade. The loner jumps onto the water, attempting to stop his brother from going further into the danger. His mark begins to burn its way through the waters, possessing his speed. Though, it had already been too late.

The dark-brown tom became desperate, and his yowls grew louder when there was nothing but wind and debris flying around.

"**RIVER'LILY!**"

It came to no avail. He could smell blood not too far away, but he couldn't give up to something that was right there. The memories piled on of an old foe that once laid his claws onto her. He feared for the worst when he saw Jacob clinging onto one of the tree branches with many scars on his back. Red'fang then dives underwater, seeing her body stuck underneath a branch that had sunk along with her. A single lily floats upward and past him, disintegrating right in front of him. Out of nowhere, he feels a force pushing him further underwater, with a cramp in his lungs that became a returning quality for him to realize that all of this was a trap.

Cut grips his back fur as he plunges him deeper. Red'fang's arms reach over and clawed Cut's eye, causing the tom to screech. The

loner drags the rogue down as the two drown together. All he could remember was the screams of panic coming from the lily and the **sunrise**. His eyes close, and everything turns into black.

Then, he felt like he was flying above clouds. The smoky gray, wispy pillows of the skies pass by his paws as he opens his eyes to reveal a dark, hazy horizon. He falls backward, feeling the oxygen leaving from his mouth, seeing what was the last of the fiery light above him, or what they would call the sun. He thought he was going to get his long-awaited wish right there. His failures mean nothing if he ends up giving up on life. There was nothing to fight or nothing that he could fear. His wish was right below him, and he'll gladly accept it.

This is it.

I can finally rest.

I'll be free from this curse.

A red aura surrounds his body as he slowly begins to hover above the forests. His eyes glued shut, expecting a painless death. But he is met with granted luck on his side, the kind of luck that made it feel more unfortunate to have that luck. His limp body became stagnant the moment the freefall was frozen in mid-air. He had already made himself comfortable, as if he is a Softpaw getting tucked into bed by its owner. Instead, it gave him an awkward, discomforting pose of just lying with the wind. He grew into frustration, finally speaking his mind. "Why can't they just end it already!?" He rolls over, now seeing the golden hue of the rising fiery light in the eastern side of the drowning place. "I've suffered enough, isn't what they wanted from me?"

The pain returned in greater numbers. Everywhere in his body throbbed. The steady flow of deep maroon leaked from his past scars that were created from his father, who he thought was toughening the tom up for the world who'll bow down to him. Instead, he was brought into the world that hates him, the world of painful memories that he wanted to forget. The hopelessness that

brought him to where he is today. Is this where he understood Jade's pain? A life that's supposed to feel welcoming from StarClan, and instead, he was given the opposite?

Suddenly, he hears a loud wail ahead of him, while the blood drains from his body. It created cats running from whatever was chasing them. They had strange markings that related to the sun, which created a golden streak across the lands. To what they thought was a blessed day, given by the sun itself, instead, it was something devastating than that. Red'fang lowered himself to the solid ground. The smell of blood and dead bodies attacked his nostrils, causing him to recoil. This was the same territory and what he is familiar to, but it had more greenery, more prey running around, and the fact that there were different cats that looked to be a tribe.

'**Tribe of Eternal Radiance**' is what he heard out of one of the cats' mouths as they travel to the mountains, where he believed was CavernClan's location. A light ginger cat with unusual stripes stuck onto their sides, follow the pathway up to the cave where there are cats hiding. Red'fang followed them until he stood on the ledge, watching the cat speak to a dark ginger tom, who was the size of a lion. He had a 'mane' all over his neck and down to the middle of his body. He had a white spiral line on top of him, with lines pointing outward. There were also white tears under both of his eyes.

Strangely, this place feels similar to him. His head started to spin, being met with whispers of voices that he had heard before in the past. It didn't help that the dark ginger tom had the same exact stripes such as him, with a scowling look he had always expressed. It was odd, really.

Then, what the two cats began exchanging on one another caught his attention.

"**They've declared a war for our land!**" The lighter ginger, presumably named Light Path, shouts at the first leader with panic on his face. "**Our members are laid dead! The sunrise colony has already been captured, and they're slaughtering them! They're slaughtering them all!**"

The leader's eyes grew, and a decently large crowd of scouts around him began to murmur. This was greatly unexpected of their new visitors. "**Haven't we made an alliance with them not too long ago? Are they not satisfied? We want nothing to do with what they desire from us!**" He shook his head, lacking belief to his scout's story. It is true that there had been an alliance between the lake cats, Light Path, on the other hand, was skeptical from the start, and all of those things began to unravel in truth. "**I'm afraid that they do, and now we're part of it! We can't wait now and let your brother down. We need to fight! It's what we're trained for!**"

It was a decision between risking the lives of his scouts or throwing them into the paws of death. But, he couldn't bear seeing his brother struggle, this was something that they were trained to do for a thousand moons. He begrudgingly accepts, knowing the risks of what to come in the future. "**Let there be scouts in every way.**" Commanded the tom as he turned to his scouts, and then to Light Path. "**This will be our first war, but let there be the last. The light will always prevail no matter the future ahead of us!**"

There was hope in each cat's eyes. They immediately followed the leader and Light Path from the mountains and to the middle of the territory, close to where BeachClan is in. Red'fang traveled along with them, unseen from the perspective of the ancient cats that went down the same path as himself. The eastern light shined between the tall trees, hoping that he could come across an answer to everything. What shocked him was when he had spotted the cats with appearances he was used to seeing.

They called themselves refugees of the doomed **Lake Territories** after deforestation and war. Those cats were grouped in four ancient clans. ThunderClan, WindClan, RiverClan, and ShadowClan. A significant cat, however, was part of the courageous and loyal ThunderClan. His name was Frost'fang, a new leader of that clan. He was a lanky white cat, with one blue eye on the left and one dark brown eye on the right. He was believed to be the new leader after their old one had died suddenly, which caused the war to happen not only because of territorial reasons.

"**Right there!**" One of the warriors yowled, seeing the sunrise

colony approaching them with anger in their eyes. The cats of thunder and wind instantly attacked the moment the leader made an appearance, with Frost'fang and the sunset battling head-on with each other.

Red'fang then hears another cry below the hill to where the coastal territory of the sunrise colony is located. He quickly makes a run for it, dodging the bloodshed that stained the tree barks and the grass below the light of what was imagined to be a peaceful day. He is then met with the brutality of war, seeing an innocent kit-mother and her mate being chased down by the cats of the shadows. In front of his eyes, he could hear the desperate shrieks of them wanting to run away from those cats.

"No! Leave them alone!" He roared, running towards them. Instead, the cats ignored and even phase through him to get the point.

Dreadfully, the screams stop abruptly with a gruesome sight of the cats killing them and tearing them down that made the tom show cracks of emotion. His heart pounded as he desperately turned away from when the mate was attacked brutally. On the other side, he could see the scouts fighting for their lives, though were outnumbered by the river who had the blood of their victims staining the water of where they used to drink, swim, and play in. It was now used as a disposing site for dead bodies.

It made him sick, the screams making him want to lower his form and cover his ears. But he couldn't. This was the answer that he was desperate in looking for. As he takes a step further, he could see the ruined camp of the sunrise as the tribe cats were being chased out of their home. He hears the calls of the lake cats who referenced twisted faith that destroyed what used to be their precious home and what they saw and claimed before they came.

"**THE SUN WILL FALL, AND THE STARS WILL RISE!**"

The destruction went on as the tribe was torn apart from left to right. Kits were ripped away from their mothers, and some cats who willingly dragged themselves with the waves now that all hopes were lost.

All of the horrors happened under the light of the morning sun. This had made him realize something about him, about everyone. For what he is named of to cause bloodshed and find power over the vulnerable, he was named for the spilled blood and tears of his ancestors. He is the face of both the powerful and the powerless. He sees his ancestor, Frost'fang entering the leader's den that was actually a large hideout. The leader had made a run for it, now that all of his scouts were slain.

Red'fang followed the cats that broke into the den, where he saw the leader grieving over the body of his brother, who had a torn belly from chin to his tail. The blood leaked and bled onto his paws. The tears fell, the markings radiated, this is where the light in him had disappeared. The ground shook, the land trembling from one's grief so powerful, it'll turn into rage, and blood that is on his eyes. Frost'fang sat there with a stoic look. It was clear he had nothing to fight about now that everyone was beneath him.

"**You've destroyed everything!**" The leader, named Sun Fall, cradled his brother's hands as if he was still a kit. The tears fell like intense waterfalls. His claws scarred the cold body of the ginger, who had a deadpan look with his eyes gazing to the void. "**How dare you seek vengeance for your brother when you've killed MINE!?**" The tom sob his eyes out. His eyes were redder as the flames growing within him. "**We've never done anything to him! Please!**"

"**Why back down now?**" Frost'fang sneered, his eyes brimming in hatred and anger for what he saw was right. "**My brother never got to live to see the day and grow as a leader. You took that away from him.**" He moves close to the tom, standing fearlessly as the land begins to crack open, and the waves churning in a violent rhythm. The unseen anger that the leader held within him for moons to make things right, and now, he saw nothing that can be gained. The only thing he wanted out of this was pain.

"**Your clans will know no peace!**" Sun Fall's voice rang across the cave that made the cats push back from the power of his voice. "**And I'll make sure you'll never see another day!**"

Then, the cave begins to tear open, and the sunset rises to the

highest of the skies where the sun stands. His paws spread outwardly, and the markings were as bright as the fiery light that surrounded him in its shared power that used to be between him and Blaze Soar. As the only possessor of the mighty light, he and the lost ancestors surround the sun with chants of anger. The light was bright enough to nearly blind them all. The trees fell, the caves collapsed, and the clouds dispersed as the multi-voiced entity is heard above them all.

"**The light will be your death. For you have cause much pain to our tribe and our home. You are and forever will be cursed, as to the entirety of this territory. You've broken us, and now we'll be the ones to break you!**"

In a flash, the sun blew into many spectacles of light. The darkness quickly encloses the territory, causing Red'fang to black out.

The ringing noise disappears, finding himself to be lying on the ground, staring at the dark clouds above him. There, he lies in the apprentice den of CavernClan, where everyone is sleeping. There were not that many scars on his body, which had given him the answer to what his twisted dream had brought him to. The young Red'paw looks around, panting and letting out a cry, which no one heard. His claws gripped the solid ground as he crouched over and dry heaved in the middle of the den. He had never seen such brutality and misery in his entire life, and it was something he'll never get over again.

And he wasn't ready to be prepared for what's to come.

His ears rose, and he froze from whatever he was doing. He hears a familiar voice of his mother, the crazy kitty that he long despised. But for a moment, things were starting to get otherworldly as the voice grew louder. He stood from his weak position and limped from the den and out to the outside of the cave after passing by the sleeping warriors. Stone'star wasn't there, and neither is some of the cats he knew. He peeks his head out to hear the distant noise of crickets chirping. He wanted to follow the voice, encouraged to find something else that was hidden from him. His eyes caught a young

medicine cat, and what he had realized was his mother, stand below the rocky hill.

"You're going to kill him!?" A gray torbie exclaims to her sister. Her eyes grew panicked the moment the crazy kitty explains her plan. It terrifies her, knowing that something small is slowly turning into something tragic. "**Hawk'song**, do you know what you're signing up for?"

The long-furred tabby scowled, turning her face. "It's what I was born to do, I can't look at my kit the same now that he looks more and more like his father." The subtle tears fell down to her muzzle. She then gazes at her sister, who was still very puzzled. "I.." The medicine cat hesitated. "I thought it was Thorn, no? He has been the one to bring Red'paw here."

Hawk'song's eyes expanded, and her sister didn't know. "**Ivory'hiss**... my sweet." Her voice lowers, her eyes becoming heavy as the guilt washes over her. "**I wasn't talking about Thorn.**"

Ivory'hiss' jaw went wide open. It was an unexpected secret given to her that made things go from calm to disturbed. "No.. no.. that isn't true. No, it isn't."

"I've made a grave mistake, Ivory'hiss," Hawk'song slowly nudges her head onto her sister's neck affectionately, knowing the burden, and the broken heart that the medicine cat endured. "...and I want you to know that I love you, and I want you to watch him for me."

"Him?" Ivory'hiss stood there, anxious and terrified. "I don't know how I can do that Hawk'song. I-.. I'm not ready!"

"I'll watch over you." Hawk'song rests her nose onto her little sister's forehead. "You will never be alone, and I can promise that. But just know that he can not know this under any circumstances. The truth will kill him."

Red'paw watches in silence. Everything in him had shut down. He watches with a look of hopelessness as he sees his aunt standing with worry and tears in her eyes, and with his mother, who thought she was doing this to protect him. But he had thought the complete

opposite. "Will you do this for me? Please?" Hawk'song's voice broke, now standing back and watching her sister contemplate the big question, with pressure on her backside. Ivory'hiss had no choice. She was the one who had to clean up the mess after all.

"I will. You have my word." She nodded, watching as her sister bowed her head at her for the last time. Only to be never seen again, but as the form of a hawk.

The call of the avian echoed in both of Red'paw's ears. Everything begins to fade to black.

Only the voice of Bloom'moss is something he could recognize.

"**RED'FANG! RED'FANG!**"

Chapter **18**

The skies are as black as the void that is seen after one takes its last breath. The walls of fog took over half of the ocean.

Two members of MurkClan had died today, Pine'leap, and Mud'paw. With no medicine cat to fend off the disease running amongst the clan that bounded nearly everyone to separate themselves, they were better off to CavernClan, which is their only hope. Only two of his warriors went out on patrol with Marsh'star, desperate for any herbs around the territory. Unfortunate for them, their luck is low, and it was impossible with all the flooded water that submerged nearly half of the land. His eyes were droopy, and his ears hung low with disappointment. All he could repeat in his head were the warnings of his medicine cat, who he didn't took seriously.

The desolation of the territory became noticeable the moment he takes a look at the wall of black clouds over what was already a ruined home. Those empty promises Stone'star made, led to everything crashing down on top of Marsh'star. Now, it was only up to him to decide his fate.

While patrolling, he hears a high-pitched voice.

"Hey, Marsh'star!" One of his warriors called. "Check this one out!"

The leader follows the voice of his warrior, coming across a very interesting view, and quite terrifying to look at. With a small cave near the valley, there was a pond that usually resided there as loners used that area to stay in for a while. It was also connected to their marsh lands coming from a small stream behind the pond. But what he saw, was that the water is black. There was no problem to it, yet, he gazes at his warrior with an annoyed look on his face. "You've brought me here to look at a pond?"

"Would I be a fool enough to let you look at a pond?" Meadow'rain retaliated with her head looking above. "Look up!"

Marsh'star raises his head to see a large crack with black, goopy substance pouring from the sharp edges.

There were birds and other sorts of prey that was frozen in stone with contact to the black abyss. His pupils shrunk, and his beating heart went stagnant. This wasn't something he'd seen before. His first thought were maybe two-legs, but this island has been so untouchable in many moons that not even they could make anything out of this isolated landmark. He turns to Meadow'rain, who is just as shocked as he is. "Where did this come from? Did **you** plant this there?" His brows furrowed, already jumping into conclusions. The itch in his skin grew evident on his flea-bitten face, the malnourishment of his body made him wonder many things. The thoughts that challenge many of his beliefs and morals.

Meadow'rain quickly shakes her head, now stepping away from him. "What are you talking about? This was only found today!" She hisses at him. "You have grown too paranoid." Her eyes glance at his cluttered, tangled fur, with some that hung for dear life. "**Don't** you ignore this question! I know there's danger out there and I'm not letting these mouse-brains trick me for anything!" His claws unsheathes by instinct, and a low growl is heard from his rumbling chest. "No one isn't tricking you, Marsh'star. It's our so-called 'allies' that should've been the one to help us with our situation!" Meadow'rain then steps all the way to the middle of the valley, frightened of her leader's behavior.

"They **are** helping us, we were offered to move in with CavernClan to help our situation! What's with **all** of you against someone who sees the good in our clan!?" He follows her out to the middle of the foggy clearing, the tears falling from his eyes as it stains the scars on his paws and arms. He was a nervous, shaking wreck that imagined the eyes gazing at him in the skies, with what he thought he was doing to please them. "He didn't help us when our territory got flooded from the storms, his promises are nothing to us! He's been doing this for many moons!" Meadow'rain yells at him, her tail lashes at the ground with complete force that spoke of suffering, and a need of change.

"You are not our leader if you constantly put us in situations where we sit and wait for things to happen, whether is with Stone'star, or

StarClan! They do not care about us! They never did! Your **ignorance** is what got us here!"

There, she is interrupted by Pond'hollow who saw the whole thing. The deputy couldn't see what was in that dark cave behind the two cats. The leader wanted to say something back, but from other frustrations coming from his own warriors, he was right. He just didn't know how to deal with it. "Marsh'star?" The deputy appears from the fog, her expression unexplainable, as she only kept an emotionless frown. "There's someone that wants you." She speaks to him, waiting on the leader to say something. Marsh'star hesitated, but then he must've thought that it was Stone'star himself. "Carry on." The tom spoke, now his focus turning to his deputy and leaving Meadow'rain to dust.

"Ignorance is bliss they say." The she-cat bickered, turning away and pacing on her own time. "What he doesn't know that if things don't change, we'll all be sitting in darkness."

She spoke too soon when noticing an uneasy presence behind her that caused all of her hackles to rise. Before she could turn around, the tendrils of the black abyss violently encloses her body and pulls her into the cave. She grunts in pain as she sees both the leader and the deputy walking away from her. "Help!" She cried. "Help me! **Please!**" The warrior begged, with her claws dragging onto the ground and causing deep lines to be pulled into the cave. Then, her limbs twisted and froze into place, turning into **stone.** Her yowls could be heard in a number of echoes, Marsh'star had already left her to die. He did steal a few glances at her arms peeking from the cave until being fully dragged in, but it had already been too late.

Her neck is twisted, and her body embedded into an uncomfortable position. There, her entire body is turned into a rough, uneven texture. Her distressed look marked of what she saw in her last moments.

Back in MurkClan's territory, the camp is eerily quiet. There was no peep out of anyone, that Marsh'star greatly expected, but didn't think it would be from the cause of **Stone'star's son**. His breath is taken away the moment he found Ice'watcher in his sight, with many others he knew from BeachClan. His presence made him

freeze, and his paws went numb. Ice'watcher turns his head from the other warriors, and to the leader himself. He stayed detatched to the cold environment he created, with a stoic look that could be mistaken of his father's easily. The only difference was the scars.

"Why the look on your face? I thought you'd expect Stone'star to be here." Ice'watcher jeered at him, being surrounded by warriors who flocked to his side with great fear. His voice is raspy, and even as quiet as a howl of wind over a freezing, isolated land. "Who would let someone like you into my clan!?" Marsh'star rose into action, he got close to the tom where both of their whiskers were touching each other's muzzles. "I'll **kill** you if you dare interfere with us!" The tom taunted at Ice'watcher, who didn't feel anything at all. "StarClan will **always** fight back!" The leader's words angrily slurred at the silver tom's face. "To let someone unfaithful as you to lead a clan is a trigger for disaster!"

"She didn't let me lead the clan." Ice'watcher spoke in a calculated manner, his spitefulness showing in his eyes in the mention of the damned StarClan. He raises his paw with the mighty hands over the stars, and he points it to his own chest. "**I** took control." He says. "..its what we've lost when we accepting the stars to our clans." He then lowers his paw, with his claws withdrawing by urge. "You can never silence the ones who speak out the most. It's one mistake Stone'star had made of me."

"And you kill those who disregarded you!" The leader cuts him off. "You kill all of the innocents that had nothing to do with you! All of that for what? To fuel your vengeance to your father!?" Marsh'star backs away, his legs becoming weak and he collapsed onto the muddy, maggot infested ground. "StarClan will damn you for all eternity! For what you've done to **US**!" He screamed at the top of his lungs, with the tears that fell from his eyes the moment he spoke his mind to the tormentor of all clans. He gaze at all of his surrounding warriors, desperate to find backhand to his power being snatched away from his paws.

"I did." Ice'watcher dryly admitted to his murders. "They were simply in the way of what I wanted to do to **him**, how I wanted to see him burn in front of my eyes." He stood from position, now standing over the weakened leader. "As they say, memories die

hard." He presses his paw down on Marsh'star's chest. His expression unforgiving and slightly angry. "The stars will be no more as long as I'm here. Don't you want that?" He simply asked, with a trace of hope that he could give to Marsh'star. Still, the leader remained a firm stand in his words, and refused to answer that question. Instead, he responds: "Kill me, and more will stand against you."

"Hm." The silver tom stiffened at his words, the leader is a lost cause. He turns to his fellow warriors, trotting past them.

"Leave him to die." He commanded, the warriors nodded his every word.

The cats of MurkClan couldn't bear watching their leader take such a fall from his power, and now they are forced to follow and recover as they make their way to the camp, known as **IceClan**.

Their only hope now was to survive until later conflict, but that will be a bad idea.

StarClan wasn't there to prevent them, it was all up to one cat who can stop the clans from descending to eternal darkness.

As one says, the light will reveal everything.

Chapter **19**

With a paw over his scruff, he was dragged away from his dream, to find himself in reality, a cruel one.

He found himself being surrounded by cats such as Nash, Jacob, and Bloom'moss, again, River'lily was never found, and the apprentices that he saved earlier, were in another area of a new cave that the entire group sheltered in. Red'fang overhears the argument between the two, and what their small group would have to do now that the territory is stirring up a war. "We can't go back under any circumstances, its true that Ice'watcher would rise to power with many cats on his side now that **they** have no place to go."

"Then, they're fools!" Nash responded, her eyes drowsy from the lack of sleep due to paranoia. "I've fought in my own war against **rogues** before! I'm not letting some clan stooge hold me back and let those cats take over OUR lives!"

Red'fang's heart stopped, hearing the name again, and again. The bitter cold of the water drags his skin down to the darkest core of earth, as a forceful push intended to take every last of his breath away. He nearly died that day when he found himself close to the bottom of the lake. He was fortunate enough for the young River'paw to drag him along to shore with the help of an old mentor to bring him back to life. Still, he could never forget him, and after his exile, he is still hesitant to take a step foot back to the past.

Then it was already too late, he had seen everything without his will, and the voices of other cats became a blur.

"He's my brother."

"I am Stone'star's son."

*"She-... **they** hid this from me."*

The helpless feeling of watching everything unravel, with his body giving him agonizing pain that made him wish that Ice'watcher could've killed him already.

"Make the hurting stop, Bloom'moss.. please."

"Don't you understand what you're doing could put **ALL OF YOU** to a risk!?" Jacob's voice grew loud the moment Nash began to bad-mouth him. He was fuming, while Bloom'moss watched in a hidden corner where she could only be seen by Red'fang. "You don't know everyone's pain, you're just some cat River'lily met off of down-valley!" Nash stood from her spot, getting close to the tom with unsheathed claws. Her ears are tuck low, and her tail whipped from side to side. Jacob still held a firm stand, using his height to his advantage. "You're an idiot if you don't know what it means to lose a family, to lose what I could've have with someone just because he wanted to see others to **SUFFER** like him! I could've have my peace if it weren't for ignorant cats like **YOU** to let him run rampant and ruin other lives!"

Their argument continued when Red'fang began to take his first step, dragging his limp body across the dirt floor. His agonizing scar burnt half of his side, with deep gashes peeling off his pelt and skin. His extended claws balanced his body, with his legs holding onto earth. he stares at Bloom'moss who sees him rising from his weakened position. The two cats fizzled out when they heard a large thud. The pain in their expressions were evident when having a word sparring match at each other.

Truthfully, no pain was any different, but its what had made each and every one of them stronger.

They see him, in a much different form. Red'fang didn't notice how much he had grown until he hits the ceiling with his head, hissing. "**OW!**" He bares his fangs, lowering his form while the pain lingered. Nash and Jacob blinked at him, and at each other. The large tom was confused as of why they were looking at him as if he has five heads. "If you're going to look, you better say something. I'll be just as **confused** as you two-.. **ack!**" He drags his claws along the crooked lines of dirt, the blood soaking up and gave him a crimson hue of his fur. "Confused is an understatement, you're a **behemoth**!"

Nash stands back, her eyes bulging from how tall the tom really were.

"That's nice, **very** nice." The tom grunted as he moves to the other side of the cave with his head held low to eye at the cats who were more than surprised. "Better yet, we're just waiting for the world to die on us, is that how **you** wanted?" The larger tom's eyes moved in tremendous speed, keeping a careful eye. Memories flickering at every moment when he looks at the darkness appearing from each side of the corner, he could visualize just what the territory will come down to if nothing is addressed. Nash was silent, but Jacob had to admit despite the stubborn argument between one another. "We've been running, we're completely outnumbered. I've worked my hardest to keep those demons under control my whole life, and yet the clans never seem to learn."

"Of course," Red'fang stiffens with slight aggravation. "It's a repeated pattern, something that leaders like **my father** had taken advantage of, all those cats dying under his paws because he refused to stop anything he's doing to get his source of power! It's **been** like this, **it always have!**" He slams his paws onto the ground, causing disturbance around the cave that even made the apprentices peek their heads out of their own little den. It was just in time where Jade, woke up from her deep sleep in the other side of the cave. River'lily and Blaze'light comes from their short patrol where they're given a notice that Red'fang is finally awake.

Blaze'light enters the cave, his eyes growing wider, and his markings flickering light as his brother's began to make contact with one another. Like fireflies finding each other in a pit of darkness. With what dreams secretly he explained to River'lily is finding connection to everything, and what the light revealed of. Red'fang continue to spiral, his eyes growing mad the moment everything was starting to make sense to him. "It's all in **me,** it's all in my **brother,** the **powerless** and the **powerful.** It's what **we** feel, and it's what **we** can be, yet we run away from something that could've been **done** before it became to what it **is** now!" His voice boomed, pacing back in forth. This was the sight that felt heartbreaking to River'lily. How much she ignored, how much she wasn't in the picture because of her own fear.

This was bound to happen, there was nothing she couldn't turn back.

"We all **CHOSE** this to happen because we don't know what to do anything of it! We've been running like mindless rats, confused, and risking our lives to only find a **dead end**-" He chokes on himself, the realization caused the tom to find the younger self in him, and what he had always kept himself from doing, to vocalize his frustration, to the clans, to his family, and to life itself. "I don't know how we'll find a way to fix **all** of this, all of this that's only on **US** to blame! It's too late, everything's gone, and I wish you all to **die** a painless death so you wouldn't be alive to suffer in a land that never cared about **us**!"

That is, until he heard a voice on his right, turning to his brother who was silent during all of this, voicing for the first time ever.

"Then we make up for it." Blaze'light says, now standing in front of the light that poured onto his new form. He was taller than River'lily, being of close height to his brother. His hidden marking grew all over his chest and to his belly. His fur flared like the flames of a rising sun above a sky that longed for its beauty again.

"It's what we were chosen for, to make things right." He approaches his brother, with a calming tone to balance the chaos that was set around him. Every memory replaying in its own pace, but only one who had accepted his trauma to overcome what life had in store later in the future. Blaze'light turns to the medicine cat, knowing that this wasn't just something that came out of nowhere. River'lily took one step forward, finding the pressure being put onto her when standing in front of a lost love, to her only friend that needed help. "It was your **destiny**. **You** are to be the next sunset, and so will your **brother** to be the sunrise. It only takes two."

To hear her voice again, it led to a relief of a broken soul. The tears mixed with the blood of his past scars, finding balance with his past, but only hidden anger for a particular someone. He took one deep breath, eying at anyone else, and then at Jade who hid in the shadows, disoriented to everything that happened so far.

"It only takes **many**, not just us." Red'fang responded.

He finally finds solace into the ongoing silence after his outburst, the light in his scars prevailing to the brightest light, where he turns away and padded out of the cave, and to the outside where a wall of darkness had already formed, and pouring through the hidden cracks of a broken territory. The island that is once home to many, now disregarded to a dark memory of what could happen if ignorance ruled everything. He takes a deep breath of the frigid air that once made his body shiver through the fur, turning into an armor of a reborn leader, the radiance that lies eternally into one's heart.

It feared everyone, even with hopelessness finding a way into Nash's heart, and the discouragement Blaze'light himself felt before finding his inner strength and standing alongside his brother.

Then, Bloom'moss asks a question, as she appears between them. "What now?"

Red'fang sat there, contemplating on his thoughts. Then, he makes a choice, to either keep going down the road of darkness, or fight back to bring light from within.

"We'll make the territory into a vision I can **stand** to look at."

Chapter **20**

The spreading of corruption and hatred to one's belief is what became of the two major clans.

Both had an iron grip on their clan, with one that seemed to be weakening, and the other gaining power from their weaknesses and what he was destined to be. This led to many small battles and trespassing to claim what was once used to be CavernClan's, everything in the territory really. IceClan was doing it all for survival, while the latter refused to let his son ruin what their leader had gained. StarClan is still a household name to them, while Ice'watcher rejected it, twisting it to his own thought of power and hope. **Control.**

Stone'star is panicking, and now he is in a position where he's forced to either declare war or become allies, but that'll be the last thing he ever wanted out of a tom who is supposedly the legacy of Frost'fang.

He didn't realize there would be another to fill in the title.

In his den, he spoke to Ivory'hiss for the first time in what it felt to be a moon since she first stood up to him. He was desperate, desperate to at least have some control here.

"If I let you speak to him and ask for peace, I'll make you powerful and give you **everything** you want." Stone'star spoke in a collected voice, masking his paranoia. He had High'sight send out patrols, and become hyper-active to each move the cats made, but it still wasn't enough. The medicine cat scoffed at the thought of helping both his father and his son, who nearly killed her. "I'm not stupid as you think, **Stone.** What about your third 'son' who had always been there from the very start? I doubt that your second will come to the rescue!" She turns her head away, her furious presence building a wall of flames between them.

Stone'star recoiled from the thought of Ember'star. "He's useless." He

growled. "He's only there to keep SaguaroClan under control. He's also more she-cat focused rather than become a true leader of war!" He slams his paws onto the ground, shifting close to her with dangerous intent, with a mix of last hope. "It.. is an **order**, not an option. You're going to ask for peace whether you like it or not. I can care less if you die in that forest, you **will** do as I say.." He clenches his fangs, the leader's eyes forming crocodile tears the moment he sees Ivory'hiss turn around and to gaze at him. He never cried, nor even called anyone for help.

"Then ask your other son, the one who had the power to **leave.**" The medicine cat replied. She found pathetic that the heir of Frost'fang's 'legacy' was now in shambles, clinging onto earth as if he had returned to his kit form. "I doubt he'll even bother to trust you again, after what a fool **you** made of my family." Her voice is laced with malice and disgust. This only angered the leader even more. "His family was weak. I only chose him, believing that **he is destined to do greater things**. He only left when realizing what mistake had risked the lives of our warriors!"

"You're a liar, and you've **always** have been." Ivory'hiss then trots to the entrance of his den, preparing to ditch him. "I will **never** do anything for you."

"You **will**!" Stone'star pounces at her, his claws holding down onto her neck, causing scars to tear through and spill blood. "I'm not letting this all **die** in his claws, I **refuse** to!"

Ivory'hiss desperately runs her claws onto Stone'star's face, nearly blinding him as she urgently tries to escape him. Not even the warriors could help her from this since they were known to never interfere with what Stone'star could be doing, giving him free reign to do whatever he wanted, and today was the day where he could prove that to the she-cat who had been a thorn in his spine. "You're going to **die**." He said, his claws scraping her chest and her belly. "It'll all be **fine**. You'll be joining her **soon.**"

"STONE'STAR, **STOP!**" High'sight ran quickly across the clearing, hoping he could find Stone'star, but he came across a horrid scene of the leader attempting to murder his own medicine cat. "LET GO OF HER!" He jumps between them, shoving the leader out of the

way and consoling Ivory'hiss who was heaving. The leader jumps away, seeing the blood on his paws, and he still wasn't done yet. "Why are you **here?** Aren't you supposed to run those patrols like I **ordered**!? Or aren't you just **dumb** like her? Why isn't anyone listening to me!?"

High'sight stood between them, his eyes terrified to what he had seen outside of the cave. "You don't understand! There's bigger problems out there, and there's **someone** that wants you!" The tom pleaded to his leader while hearing Ivory'hiss coughing a lung after the attack that she never expected. "**Who** could possibly want me? **Hm**? Is it the dark forest waiting for **me**?" Stone'star whispered, his heart rapidly beating just from that thought of his own fears he imagined,

High'sight didn't know what to say, and only hear the murmuring crowd when seeing a red light spilling through the entrance of the cave.

"**Worse.**"

Stone'star made an immediate pursuit to the mysterious intruder when he saw his warriors gathering outside of camp, pushing both High'sight and the weakened Ivory'hiss away. There, he followed the crowd with his eyes focusing on the light being trailed down the ledge. His heart pounded for whatever reason. It got so bad to the point that he could feel his heart hitting his throat. Something didn't feel right. It never felt right at **all**.

It proved his suspicion when he found himself at the bottom of the cliffs, staring at a tom who sat there watching the gorge silently. His size was outstanding, and the scars resembled something that he tried his hardest to make those bloody memories turn into a myth or a rumor. All of those moons wasted to cover his ancestor's crimson tracks, only to face his past with nothing to live for. His voice moved as it formed a fiery aura around the tom who awaited for his former mentor and father to see him. "Stone'star." Red'fang spoke, turning his head to stare at the light-cream tom for the first time.

His red eyes silent the crowd as it backed away from the cat who

they became afraid of for a many reasons, even some who were hesitant to even come out of cave, only Ivory'hiss who watched from above, and a **she-cat** who haven't been heard of in quarter-moons.

"Red'fang.. I-.. **you**-.." Stone'star gasped, his body trembling from his son's presence. Either he wanted to be glad, angry, or maybe both. "You've come back.. you.. you wanted to come back to me?" He found trouble forming sentences from the instant shock of his son's surprise visit. The loner was uninterested. He scoffed and even laughed at himself. "Yeah, I missed you so.. so **much.**" His fluffy tail wiggled like a sly snake. He could see the change in his father's eyes in his peripheral vision. "But I don't miss the **real** you."

"What? I thought you did? You know your **mother** told me how much you wanted to be around **me**." Stone'star approaches him, hoping his influence is still present to the mind of his former apprentice. "Everything you **are**, and everything you **have**, is all directed to **me**. A powerful family of cats who fought their hardest to reach to where they wanted to be." His tail curled close to his side, his head tilting as he stared at his son's wounded back. Red'fang turns around to reveal his face and what he looked to be the resemblance of the sunset leader.

"And do you know why, Red'fang?" Stone'star began to purr, feeling comfortable to even reveal this secret to his brainwashed warriors. "...Because I'm your **father.**"

The loner shrugged, still expressing his nonchalant manners to the fact. "I know." He responded, leaving the others shocked to such a reveal that all had been expected from Ivory'hiss, who Red'fang could see still staring above. He gave her a nod of respect before staring back at Stone's star, who grew angry. "You don't know what you're doing! I'm your father, your kin! I should be the one to give orders!" He steps forward to his son, though he found himself to an impossible position of ever overpowering the tom. "I am **who** I am. I may not be entitled to anyone's freedom, but you're the last leader to be giving orders around here." Red'fang tilts his head, studying his father's shocked expression that led to him backing away in disbelief.

"You don't say that, no.. no.. not to your own **blood?**" Stone'star shakes his head, his heart stopped just from the thought of losing **everything**. "I'm not letting you take over! You'll be just like your mother, a disgrace!" He yelled to his son and then at his warriors who stepped away, fearing for the worst. They knew Stone'star had become insane the moment he enlisted all of those rules. It was time for a change. "That's between me and **her**." He responded, opening his paw and flexing his blood-stained claw over the red light from the clouds.

There, cats from his small group began to appear. Blaze'light and Jade formed from the fog, Nash and Jacob snuck into the camp. River'lily stood beside Ivory'hiss when hiding her identity through the crowd.

And the special for last, Bloom'moss floated high and mighty above the cats.

"And where's **Dani?** What do you do with **her**?" Red'fang's voice grew with the red light surrounding the mountain. While what happened in the past between him and his mate, he couldn't help but worry for her in silence. It even surprised his brother and other cats for him to speak of her again. "She's gone. She went with the wolves on her own doing! She didn't think she was fit to be in CavernClan!" Stone'star yelled at the tom, which irritated some of the cats who **knew** what had happened to her.

Red'fang could tell in some of the faces that he was lying. "That doesn't say anything." The tom bare his teeth at Stone'star, his claws continuing to flex with gracefulness and what became a memory of Ravine'trout's death. "Your lies are limited once you realize how much one can be used to them."

Stone'star didn't say anything, and only stayed before he could ever think of wanting to fight his own son.

Red'fang's face slowly turns into guilt when he stares at his stained fur in brief silence. He became what his father wanted, but no more should he be the cause of everyone's suffering. No more. "I never wish no harm to the clan. I was only destined to save you all from **doom,** if you let me. All of my frustrations will be on **you.**"

Red'fang said, rising from his spot and approaching his father closely, with his shadow covering Stone'star's body.

"So, what do you say?" He speaks to his father, expecting a positive outcome from all of this, all the pain from this cursed body to be worth it in the end. Stone'star was now in position of where he enjoyed when others cowered below him. He expected Red'fang to take that joy to other cats, but not to his own **father,** his **kin** who raised him.

Surprisingly enough, Red'fang didn't feel the need to feel joy for that. It'll just make him as guilty as the latter.

Stone'star didn't want to say it. All he ever showed was to bow his head, the embarrassment running in his veins and what he could hear from the stars that cursed him for eternity.

Red'fang was satisfied, but never to those who were bowing down to him. He had a title to follow, but not by control, and what his father became to be. "You found yourself a deal then." The tom nodded to his father, now walking past the crowd who had split widely enough for him to pass by.

Blaze'light and Jade followed behind him, still unprepared for their roles, but were willing to take up for the territory to become what it was thousands of moons ago. Together, they were willing to make a change for the clan and the entirety of the territory.

Though, IceClan will not go down without a fight.

As what they always say to brothers brought in different paths in life, to fight for what they believed is right.

Blood will spill blood.

Chapter **21**

For what was a moon of running, Dani lived in small dens in the empty territories since Stone'star saw nothing in her.

Was this the peace she wanted now?

Her missing presence getting put with lost times of her life, to where she had completely forgot about everything. As time went on, everyone had thought she was dead for sure, until she comes across a patrol coming from BeachClan's area. She was hunting for whatever prey she could found, but she mostly came across of carcasses being disposed. She preferred to live close to abandoned camps since they had discarded prey despite how rotten they were. Dani had forcefully adapted to a life of survival.

It's something she never thought it could happen, but it is almost expected since life was never the same. To hear what her mother said to her before she went with the clouds, life is always unpredictable. She takes a step into the fallen black leaves and the coldness settling in. It is never clear to what season it is now with the dark skies, but she could briefly tell it is late in leaf-fall with scent and messages from the environment. Her nostrils wiggled, and her pupils dilated at the sound of patrol cats around her. The speaking of IceClan had intrigued her, but it only led to horrors in the bay.

Her eyes widen the moment she sees a similar blue-eyed cat across the forest, standing over the ledge above where a bloody scene took place. The tom stood with his patrols, and two of his deputies standing beside him. He took one long breath before leaping off the cliff, his eyes focused to what lies ahead. He had everything he wanted, but he still expected more, he wanted **more**. He wanted no distractions to whatever he wanted to do to tear CavernClan down.

His thoughts remained strong on what to do, even if it means to risk his entire clan to their deaths.

While he roams the cold forests, Dani snuck to the outside barriers of BeachClan's old camp. The rocks surrounded the edges were either collapsed onto the middle of the clearing or was dragged into the waves. There were vines hanging off of cliffs, though never she would thought to be bodies of kits until she took a closer view to see maggot ridden bodies that were disposed of. There were also elders' bodies in piles after what appeared to her was them being murdered. To her shock, she could remember that those kits were mothered by Shell'wave, someone she knew from the past.

"How could Shingle'star do this?" Dani murmured, going further to camp where she could see the camp being guarded by two of his rogues, Eruption and Panther. Apprentices were being trained to kill instead of fight, warriors were overworked, it seemed that in this isolated place they're in, there was no choice but to join and fight for their lives. Their territories were consumed to the void, and she knew that Marsh'star was dead when seeing all of MurkClan's members. But what she truly worry for, is Shell'wave. That is when she sees her in a den close to the ledge, where its presumed to be for prisoners like queens, elders, and kits. It didn't make any sense for Dani just for Ice'watcher to exclude the vulnerable, what have **they** done to live at an unfortunate time?

She assumed that the other queens had been rid of, but she couldn't let the only queen to die without anyone on her side. So she snuck herself into camp without the other warriors looking, and made their way to the prisoner's den. Shell'wave lies on the ground, being deprived of basic needs such as food or water, if there was **any** for her. Dani peeks her head through the entrance, her voice whispering for the she-cat.

"Hey! Psst!"

The queen rose her head, her eyes widening to see a similar someone standing in front of her. Her heart stopped, thinking that it was her time to be executed. In reality, it was someone that she knew long ago, that she never thought could be alive today. "D-... Dani?"

"I'm here." She called, gesturing her paws for Shell'wave to follow. "Come, I'm not leaving you here to die."

"But.." Shell'wave grew unsure of this, and remained on her spot in fear of getting caught. "You don't know what they'll do to someone like you!" She whispers, curling herself into the darkest corner, the smell of pungent dead bodies was something the two cats could never erase. Still, Dani was stubborn. "As long as I'm here, I won't let anyone hurt you."

"**HEY!**" A loud yowl is heard behind her, causing Dani's pupils to dilate the moment she hears a voice of one of the rogues. Eruption spots her trying to coerce the queen to run with her, by IceClan's code, no one is allowed to leave under any circumstances there is. He quickly makes a run at the small she-cat with eyes of egotism and confidence that he could overpower her. Dani quickly alters her body and unsheathes her claws the moment the tom got on his two hind legs and pounce at her. Dani stretches her arm and clawed the side of Eruption's face, causing him to fall over. Shell'wave saw what happened, and ran out of the den to hear the rogue screech in pain.

"**STAY BEHIND!**" Dani yells at the queen, who made no hesitation to run off to where she belonged. Eruption drags himself off the dirt and ravaged his way to tackle the she-cat yet again. "Classic Dani to keep her nose on other cats' businesses!" The tom taunts her as he got ahold of the she-cat and kneads her to the ground. Dani struggled to get him off, her paws grabs a handful of dirt. "When you take over a clan and abuse your rule, its **EVERYONE'S** business!" She threw the dust at Eruption's face, causing him to cough and spit, stumbling close to the cliff. The she-cat saw an opportunity, readying her back legs and running at him in full speed.

"You'll pay for what you've done to them!" She roared, headbutting the tom off the cliff to where he shrieked like dying mice, his paws flailing desperately until he made contact with the rocks below. A splatter of blood is heard, and seen by one of the patrols who were roaming in the shores, they were caught by surprised when seeing a brutal outcome to their ignorance. The cats look up to see Dani running along with the escaped queen, with others in camp noticing

the she-cats as well. They took off running after them, with their strong legs reaching at her speed.

The white tiger only watches from a distance, which he knew that something like this could happen. His blue eyes flickered at the thought of Dani who ran to wherever she could to get away from them, like a hare running from a fox.

Little did she know it would trigger the biggest event of all.

It was all part of Ice'watcher's thrill to see his kin, all together in one **big happy family**.

Chapter **22**

(Two-part chapter again yayyy)

Forgiveness

SunClan.

It's what was agreed upon the new leadership of both brothers the moment they joined the clan about a moon ago.

The cats have grown exhausted to who should take over the clan, and how they were going to survive this leaf-bare, if they can make it to the next season. Some were either considering on running away, which would've been a horrible idea on their part. Given by what Stone'star and Ember'star had done to them and was the blame of every clan's downfall, it was an agreement to imprison them underground until further notice. Senior warriors and elders wanted a change, Red'fang never see himself as the perfect leader, but he was willing to give out his best effort to do so.

He woke up to hearing distant voices of Blaze'light, who he assumed were doing the patrols. His mind wander lots of things that he couldn't think of any single thing, not even the relationships that he either ruined or created. He doesn't even know if he's able to do now that he's in a position where nothing could ever be the same again, with Dani, with River'lily, to anyone really. He was just best off of following his destiny with no turning back. Everything was depended on him. Then, he noticed a figure standing in front of him. He must've thought it was either High'sight or Cactus'bite to inform him about Stone'star's recent behavior.

As he fully opens his eyes, it was actually Jade with a faint crescent on her forehead. "Morning." She sits down in front of him, her tail moving close to his front paws, which the tom quickly bats it away as he groans. "Mmmf.." He turns his body, covering his face. His

voice murmuring with exhaustion and slight annoyance. "Did you check with the two crazies?" He asks her, the she-cat quickly responded. "Ember'star wanted to starve, and Stone'star is monologuing. I think you can tell how happy they are."

"Oh that's right, I think we can all share about everyone's optimism around here." He rolls onto his back, stretching his legs. "...besides, I haven't had any good memory in this cave, so I might as well go out with a bang.. to the head." He drags himself off his moss bed before towering over Jade who had a somewhat amused expression. "You still have time to make things right, with the ritual and all. You need to face your past before going anywhere further than that, you only have a few sunrises left." She looks down, her nostrils writhed from the iron smell on his fur. Red'fang's muscles stiffened the moment that name began to appear in his head, again and again. "I **already** have done that, Jade. But with her..?" He hesitated, now glancing at the medicine den. "I think we all know what happens."

"Dani may not be here, but River'lily is. You haven't spoke to her when she first came." Jade moves close to him, gazing at his eyes that looked to be frightened over a small she-cat. "It's okay to take it slow, its probably how you two were mates in the first place."

Red'fang glances at River'lily again, working with other two cats that were assigned to assist Ivory'hiss. He moves aside and stood at the mouth of his den, he took one deep breath and lastly turns his head at Jade. "If I get my jaw torn off, you're dead." He retorted in a facetious timbre, the she-cat purring as she rolls her eyes. "Don't knock it until you try it." She said, leaving the young leader out to do something that his apprentice-self would've been passing out for. He takes a step down from the ledge, still putting on a harsh facade so it wouldn't cause an uprise of gossip.

"This is stupid."

"Why am I blushing like some two-leg apprentice?"

"Oh, they're looking at me."

Those thoughts were rampant.

It was something he could remember his young, awkward self trying to ask River'paw out to hunt together. Red'paw still never left the older tom's heart, and that MurkClan she-cat was still on his mind every single day. To how much he had wronged her, and to move on like nothing happened, he was destined to get his hind handed on by the harsh voices of a medicine cat. This was against the code of course, hence why their relationship had been kept a secret for so long. Still, he could care less about StarClan, and what he knew now was to own up to his mistake that ended their relationship in the first place.

Meanwhile, River'lily worked like a powerhouse. It was like some sort of distraction for her to never interact with anyone that could drive that away. She had Mushroom'paw, her apprentice, that kept up with her through everything. It was like watching a suicide happening in front of the young tom who found her to be working too hard at times. After the flood and all, it seems their relationship had only revolved around anything medicine related, and herb patrols. That is, until Mushroom'paw sensed someone standing behind him, he turns around and got the biggest scare of a lifetime.

"**WOAH!**" The tom yelped, seeing the eyes of Red'fang appearing out of nowhere. The leader was like a tiger trying to get close to whatever it was interested to. It made the apprentice's heart stop the moment he sees his scarred face revealed itself from darkness. "Hey, calm down. It's me." The leader reassured, his expression relaxed as he stood there. "Where is your mentor?" He questioned, Mushroom'paw turning his head and gesturing his paws at her. "On your right." He says, catching his breath from what happened earlier. The tom nodded at the apprentice as he makes his way deeper into the den. The she-cat focused on her work, adjusting and sorting out herbs into their respective spaces. Cats of the den were being treated by Ivory'hiss from any sickness or injury.

River'lily sat quietly until she hears a voice that she had trouble trying to drain it all out.

"River'lily." Red'fang spoke to her in a quiet voice. "We-.. uh.. we need to talk."

Her forehead wrinkled the moment that sentence becomes relevant

again. Its clear she wanted to snap at him, scream at him for what he did to her. But at the same time, the stress of trying to survive had affected them both. She didn't know how to feel at the moment. "Go on." She says, staring at him by the corner of her eyes. Red'fang gulped before seating right in front of her. He says something that she never expected out of him. "I'm sorry." He spoke with a meaningful tone. "...for everything."

"You never used to say that." She countered. "I couldn't even recall the last time you did when I caught you and Denise, or whatever her name is."

The tom sighed. "Yes, but I'm saying it now, and its **Dani** for your information." He moves close, hoping that the other cats couldn't hear them arguing. River'lily still didn't sound convinced. "You're a self-centered, pompous fox-heart, you know that? You want me to believe that **you're** sorry so you could take me back?" Her claws grip on the nearest moss, nearly tearing it apart. Red'fang was trying his hardest to hold his frustration back, his exasperation becoming clear in the eyes of River'lily. "I was **never** pompous. You can say what you want about me, but all I ever wanted to give is closure before we see each other in battle."

River'lily wanted to say something else, given that wish to give him a piece of her medicine. As she turns around with an angered look on her face, she couldn't help but to soften a little. She could memorize each scar on his face being caused by everything that happened. Comparing with her own scars on her back, they seem to heal on its own despite being faint with its appearance. She didn't know how to respond, nor even expect out of him after that apology. It wasn't easy. "I never thought I could forgive you, nor do I even have the interest of doing so."

Red'fang closes his eyes, he knew the answer ahead of the conversation anyway.

"I see."

With the abrupt silence between them, Red'fang walked off with his tail hung low. River'lily turns around and said something.

"Wait."

The leader stopped, his eyes narrowing at her voice. "Hm?"

River'lily was reluctant on what to say, she only spewed what was in her mind at the moment. "I'm not saying I forgive you, but I'm tired, I'm tired of-.. being angry all the time. I don't even know if I was any worth to you the moment you did that."

"You meant something to me." Red'fang turns his head, speaking to her with a genuine look. "I should've have done that, and to be honest?" The leader lowers his voice with a feeling of discomfort. "I was intimidated. If-... we could just start over, we can." He cursed at himself for what he said to her, and what could've been the stupidest thing that had ever been done. It got awkward, fast.

"Oh?" River'lily tilts her head, puzzled, and mildly amused. "That's-.. interesting." She looks away for a second, with a brief memory of being asked out by Red'paw many moons ago when they were still apprentices. Still, there were lots of cracks to fix. The medicine cat hears the voice of Ivory'hiss calling her name.

"River'lily?"

Red'fang heard it too, and turns his head to see his aunt standing in the corner with Mushroom'paw. Then, he flinches at a tingling sensation of River'lily's tail passing over his back and walking slowly towards the elder medicine cat. He didn't know why she never replied, but he knew now that it wasn't easy. What he truly missed was her touch that felt like clouds above skies. Its something he could interpret that maybe she truly did want to forgive him.

But then again, it wasn't easy. He'll just have to take it elsewhere for now.

"Hey!" A warrior yells across the cave, grabbing Red'fang's attention.

"We have a problem, and its **not** looking good!"

A Lost Memory

Blaze'light walked alone in the bordered shores of BeachClan, his patrols had reached far off from SunClan territory, but it made him hesitant to go further. Nash was walking in front of him, she turns around to notice the tom dissociating to the darkness ahead of him. "Hey, what are you staring at?" She blinked, confused to what was going on with her mate. Blaze'light hears her voice, and turns around to stare at her. "Nothing." He briefly looks away, though Nash didn't seem too convinced on his excuse. "You're a lousy liar you know that?" She remarked, her expression growing visibly annoyed.

The tom looks away and ignored her as he kept going. His paws step onto the sand, squinting from every step he took. It was like walking on glass shards, and the burns on his growing marking didn't make anything better. It was like walking to his doom with nowhere to go other than to go forward. In his own vision, the screams of scouts getting murdered never left from his mind. The sun shined on his right, with the exact golden hue that radiated the crimson ocean. Nash couldn't take with the silence of her mate. "You're scared of just about everything." She trots in front of Blaze'light, her eyes narrowed the moment he tries to look away from her. "Is that why you're so quiet lately?"

"I have a **lot** on my plate, Nash." Blaze'light grumbled, becoming light-headed as he take a look at the crimson ocean with floating bodies dragged away with the waves. "Please.. let's just-.. **not.**" His claws unsheathed, feeling uneasy to his surroundings that made him oversuspicious in the first place. The orange flames in his eyes dimmed by distress, with his fur falling from his skin. He feel like he wanted to vomit onto the sand from the smell of decomposed cats trailing down the sandy strip. He knew from his own dream of what he had saw, and that he may have been walking to his demise.

"What's wrong with you?" Nash moves close to him, with millions of questions on her mind. "You've been like this ever since you woke up." She stops him from walking further, her tail lashing close to his ankle. "Nash, I'm in a really stressful position right now, and I don't want to be disturbed." Blaze'light was forced to look at her, his brows furrowing from brief anger to this she-cat who ignored his

boundaries. "I've been trying to help you, and you've been whiny about it this whole time." Nash deadpans, her paws stepping further between his own front ones. "It seems like you don't care."

"I **do** care, okay!?" Blaze'light's voice shouted at her face, his body shaking from the anger he feels. It was the first time that ever shocked Nash for him to snap at her like that, or to anyone in particularly. "I **don't** hate **you**, I hate **myself**. I hate being me and I hate being in this body. I'm going to **die**, and I just know it!" He wept, his appearance becoming visibly like the flaming sunrise brother who sacrificed everything if it meant to keep everything in line. The worthlessness Blaze'light felt, it was like a dagger stabbing through his heart. Nash could see the walls crumbling down, with the rocks crushing the bones on his back. There, she could understand the pain. Sometimes, destiny can be cruel. All she could do was to shift close to him and nudge his neck, purring quietly.

Her tail curls below her hind legs, and her ears pinned down.

There, two she-cats could hear his sobbing, Dani and Shell'wave quickly revealed themselves from the bush.

Their unexpected calls startled Nash and Blaze'light who spotted them instantly. The tom's heart stops, seeing Dani again as well as a queen that he knew from BeachClan. Quickly, he ran at them in a panic, forgetting about his own problems. "Dani? Where the hell have you been!?" He stops, seeing Shell'wave collapsing onto the ground, with her slaked appearance of lacking anything to make her survive another sunrise of being in this hellhole. Dani stumbled all over her words, she, herself looked frail and weak. "Shingle'star! She had sent all elders, kits, and queens to their deaths! I saw their bodies!" She exclaimed, the tears running down to her neck area.

"Shingle'star?" Nash raises a brow, her eyes growing angry before realizing, her face turn sick the moment the white tiger came into mind. "She's **been** dead-.. she's... oh my-.."

Blaze'light had the same reaction, it quickly grew into disbelief, and anger. "That tom had slaughtered the vulnerable!?" He asks Dani, awaiting an answer out of his accusation that may have been true considering Ice'watcher's recent actions. "Yes-! **Yes**!" Dani cried,

there were hints of vomit shown on her muzzle and paw. Her body recoiled from dry heaving of the slightest reminder of what caused their deaths. This had been the hardest point in life for Blaze'light to realize, that there will always be pain and darkness to the world around them. But it'll never prevent the prevailing light of hope that what made him to the cat he was today.

"Call the patrol, Nash." The tom turns to the she-cat, who quickly set off to the wood where she uses scent to detect where the others are. "Get her to CavernClan. Me and Red'fang took over." He glances at Shell'wave and then at Dani. The she-cat stares behind her, becoming queasy and very anxiety-ridden just from the thought. "You're doing this alone? Blaze'light-.. they're dangerous! They'll kill you and the patrol!"

"I doubt it." The tom responded, passing by Dani and Shell'wave who curled up to the loner she-cat for comfort. The loner knew what had to be done, and lowers her form to grip Shell'wave's light body by her scruff with the use of her jaw. She then takes off limping to the opposite side, the words echoing in the back of her mind. Blaze'light sat there, staring as the visions of the gruesome past disappeared. His pupils looks up to see a floating, flaming orb above him that lit the area.

The tom closed his eyes, with his belly aching from deep pain that could tear him open like a sword to an enemy.

Still, his body steadied his way to enemy territory, with his heart made of fire, and his aura followed by light.

Chapter **23**

At the second darkest night, panic spread the moment a blue flame touches the sky. It fizzled off with only the cold smoke that turns into white gusts of wind.

The temperature went below freezing straight away, and the winds began to pick up. The winds were like louds roars of a tiger who had found target, and that made Red'fang realize Ice'watcher's ulterior moves. "Oh no.." Jade murmured, standing alongside of Red'fang and the other warriors who were curious, but all that wonder turns into terror when the winds began to pull in and push everyone back. How had this tom acquired such power without StarClan's interference? Red'fang stood in front of Jade, a red, clear forcefield shields the mouth of the cave. The leader yells at the cats who took cover.

"**GATHER THE QUEENS, APPRENTICES, AND KITS!**" He clings onto the rocky surface with his extended claws, blocking the air from entering. "**WHOEVER IS WARRIOR, GET OUTSIDE OF CAMP, NOW!**"

The warriors were hesitant on following orders, until realizing how serious it had gotten the moment the grounds of the island territory became white. Primrose'dawn, one of the medicine cats, ordered the lower ranks to hide in the underground. The other medicine cats came up-front to learn that winter had made its early arrival. This had frighten Ivory'hiss, knowing what she saw in that cave was the true vision to their future, though it wasn't expected for Red'fang to come back. Red'fang depletes a rush of wind, and pushed it back, causing a wide shockwave that shook the island.

A harsh blizzard covers the ground with large coverings of snow. Red'fang spots the flickering light that what he believed was his brother. His heart pumped irregularly fast, and he became light-headed due to the overwhelming feeling of the power he held. Though, it sounded like he is walking straight to his past. Without any word, he takes flight into the harsh weather, ignoring the

screams of his aunt who had heard it all from her sister.

"**DON'T GO DOWN THERE!**"

The crimson trace around his body lit a path for him to track and follow. A white, sparkly light appeared behind him that was believed to be Jade. Still, he makes a breakthrough the harshest whiteout that no one had seen since the **Forest Territories**. What caught his eyes is a tuxedo lying weakly on the ground underneath a puddle of crimson. He then lowers his form, realizing that it was Jacob. The ground shook around the area, and his tail instantly curled onto the tom to keep him warm while he waited for Jade. Jacob's vision is blurry, his throat is torn, yet he still attempted to move. It was a defeat that he could never take on, after he saw those blue eyes leave from his proximity. The blue eyes that he wanted to kill and give him the pain that he felt on the inside.

Red'fang noticed this, and kneaded his body, his large amounts of fur keeping the tom warm as he quickly looks out to the shadows in the distance. "Stay down." He commanded, burying his panic that is shown from his constant beating heart. His eyes turn into tears from the frustration, and the helplessness of those who suffered. "I.. I can't." Jacob stretched his paws, gripping the snow into small piles. "I **need** to find him... please, I can't let **him** go." His emotions began to pour, and the pain began to show from his torn belly to the large scars on his back. The tears froze from the icy winds, his body going cold. "You've done enough, I'm not losing you." The sunset held Jacob down, before noticing the flickering white light of Jade making way.

"**Over here!**" Jade called, a warm light also appeared beside her, and then teleported behind of Red'fang as her surrounding aura helped Jacob from freezing to death. Bloom'moss yowled to get Jade's attention, she then nodded at Red'fang that gave him the sign to keep going. The leader then took off into the deep forest, his mind focused on one thing, Blaze'light. He tracks down large cracks that caused the territory to tilt over slightly. What was the end of the snowy trail were black grass, dead trees, and what SaguaroClan looked like during the seasonal drought of green-leaf.

His eyes widen, seeing his brother struggle to fight the white tiger.

The tom attempted to leap at Ice'watcher again, his fangs sinking onto the tom's neck. The two cats fell over, with Ice'watcher sensing Red'fang's presence, he kicks Blaze'light's stomach with his strong hind legs. The ginger tom felt his stomach sink in, and his hip fracturing. The tom flew across the forest, giving Ice'watcher a few nasty gashes to the shoulder before hitting a bunch of trees and letting them collapse onto him.

Red'fang watched in shock, and in silence. The anger seeded deeply through his heart. His brain, however, naturally rejected the thought of bravery. But this was the present, not the past, or his thought out future from the very beginning.

This was his tormentor, the one that brought him out of cowardice after a long time.

The white tiger remained still, his eyes deliberated the tom's looks. His own appearance was also noticeable now that his fur were remnants of snow and sharp icicles. His protruding fangs made him look like the ancient saber. The scars weren't holding him back anymore now that he had found place in the world that rejected him. "**You..**" His voice began in a raspy, quiet tone before turning confident in his usual raucous tone. He cackled at his face, reminiscing the 'sweet' memories he and Red'fang had together. "You finally came to me!" He exclaimed, padding close to the tom who stare down at his tormentor.

The sunset imagined gruesome things that couldn't even been explained.

"Oh, how am I excited to see you. Why the frowny look on your face, hm?" Ice'watcher tilts his head, his eyes roaming at his scarred appearance again and again. He had grown quite a lot, but that never stopped him. "You should've been proud for what you've accomplished, leading your brother to do stupid things that no cat had ever done." His voice darkens, with his expression dimming down to a dangerous glint while staring at the fallen trees. "You're **gutless**, Red'fang, you always have been!"

"I **don't** like speaking when I get into fights." Red'fang moves close to the clearing of the ruined camp of BeachClan. His eyes of fury

melts the snow off of his body, his started to luminate. "Let's see how many times you'll start begging the moment I get these claws on **you.**"

"You're **on!**" Ice'watcher roared as he runs at his half-brother with excellent speed, Red'fang waited for him to make a move. The silver tom then pounces at the dark-brown tom, his claws puncturing the visible scars of the other tom's shoulder. Red'fang gets on his two hind legs, using his strength to slam Ice'watcher down and causing the ground to crack. The silver tom yelps in sharp pain, instinctively kicking Red'fang's belly and making him collapse from his body. The ground began to break, causing rift over the bay and making the grounds sink. The ocean is swallowed to darkness as it created a waterfall from the strength of these two cats.

Ice'watcher frantically moved away from the edge, then used the ice to grow from the ground and to make Red'fang slip. The brown tom uses his quick thinking to hover himself from the voided end, using his strong front claws to boost him up the cliff and fled straight through the forest. The snow parted by force, the tom had his front arms stretched outward. Ice'watcher can strongly notice the tom's presence, and turns around to create a rigid, icy barrier around him with a step of his paw. The brown tom broke through and had his paws wrap around his half-brother's neck and to his face.

The two toms began to fight like regular mortals.

Ice'watcher rolled back, his claws deeply scarring Red'fang's back and throwing him to the closest tree. He yelled in horror when he could barely see his eyes without a veil of blood over his upper face. "**I'll kill you!**" The tom ran at him again, leaping forward and tackling him down again. "**I'll make you regret exiling ME!**" He gripped Red'fang's bottom fur on his throat, tearing through the wound that killed him during a fight with Summit'rush. The sunset hastily suffocated under Ice'watcher's muscular weight. He ends up taking power by scarring his face and pushing him to the other side.

A tree outlined in glowing red fell over the silver tom, holding him down for a little bit as he retreated to the east side of BeachClan's territory. He quickly made his way to help his brother from

freezing. He used all his strength to shove the trees out of the way, until noticing a missing hole that made him freeze. The tears showed itself, and the panic started to settle in again. "Blaze'light, Blaze'light where are you!?" He yelled at the empty white forest, his voice grew louder in distress when he only got no response. "**BLAZE'LIGHT!**"

"I believe there **is** no Blaze'light.." Ice'watcher limped, revealing himself from the white snow circling around him. "..and there will be none of you left after what **you** done to me!"

"**You** did this to yourself." Red'fang replied coldly. "You took advantage of those who were weak, and those who you saw fit best to your pallet. I should've known you'd grown like this, just as your father."

Ice'watcher paused, before laughing with a mix of a raspy wheeze. "He's **dead**, I'm alive! How **does** that correlate!?"

Red'fang limply paced around, circling the tom as he pondered over the small memories and what was told about him. "I don't know, maybe that you two had beliefs that can be deadly." He took a shot at Ice'watcher, whose position began to weaken. "You use and abuse others to get what you want, that's something Stone'star have been doing." He stood close to the tom who quickly denied everything. "I'm not like him, I'll **NEVER** be like him! It was you that he cared about, and wanted **YOU** to become his next leader!"

"I did, but it wasn't by his choice. He didn't have that much control now that me and some good friends of mine took over. He may had succeed in you, but never in me."

Ice'watcher's face becomes emotionless, his eyes twitching when those words hit him like a monster, and that he became the roadkill. He blocked out everything that he said. Instead, he focused on one thing only.

Kill him.

When Red'fang wasn't looking, he turns around to see a wave of ice moving towards him with quickness, bounding him tightly to the

ground that confined him from doing anything else. Ice'watcher laughed, his body shaking from the uncontrollable feeling of what he wanted to do next, what he always dreamed of. "Red'fang..." He stopped; the saliva dripped from his fangs. His body cracked and groaned from the inner hunger that lived within him. "**I..** get to **kill** you now after being disappointed for **so** long. To show my appreciation, I'll do it **slowly**."

The brown tom was caught off-guard from this, he quickly tried to escape with the strength he had, but it was already too late.

Until someone had taken the slash that was supposed to be for him. Red'fang expected lots of pain, he didn't know what he saw until he felt the blood splatter onto his face. His eyes wandered off from Ice'watcher, with **Blaze'light lying onto the ground in a pool of blood.** His heart stop, his stomach sank, and time froze all around him. It stopped snowing, and the winds finished its job from running amuck. His paws clenching hard enough that he began to pull and tear the terrain from his body. His pupils shrunk, and his body shook with the crumble ground as the redness appear inside the cracks.

The world is quiet, only the vibrations of the sun in him, the rage of what the sunset leader felt for his only brother. His lost words spark dry tinder that ignited his fury, he breathed like a freight train, in denial of what he had saw in front of him. He couldn't hear anything, or with Ice'watcher teasing him and poking fun at his brother's body. He didn't speak, he seethed. He then raises a paw, and slam onto the ground with harshness and power. The forest crumbled downward, and the skies began to turn into a deep tone of red. The earthquakes created a rift between the two cats.

"**NO!**"

A large crack is set in the middle of the two, Ice'watcher starts to slip almost off the edge. His claws grip onto one of the hanging trees as Red'fang floated mid-air. He spoke those words to the tom, with his voice echoing to all of nearest cats that can hear him. It created shockwaves and high tides that almost flooded the lands. His eyes were fully consumed with rage, and what he had held back the longest. The clouds began to part when a hint of the red sun

emerged from its long, thousand-moon slumber.

"YOU WILL BE RAINED EVERY AGONY IN YOUR PATH!"

The long tear streaks turn to blood; he couldn't even see the chaos that he had caused around him now that he had absolutely lost it. He uses the vines and trees to confine Ice'watcher to the ground, Red'fang was blind to the cats running from their lives since he had grown focused on what was in front of him. He could feel **Sun Fall** taking over his body, possessing him to commit the deed of what had been his destiny the entire time. What he didn't notice was Jade descending from the skies and using her brawns to crash onto Red'fang before he could've done anything further. Her paws confined the raging tom onto the ground.

The sunset was so consumed in his inner fires that he clawed the she-cat as she tried to get ahold of him. "**What are you doing!? Get off! GET OFF!**" He grips onto the ground, his voice loud enough to push trees back, and the mountains to collapse and causing lots of cats to run from their home. Jade silently refused, her body hardening as he got more dismissive and nearly overpowered her. His anger turns into a raging flood of tears when he feels more pressure onto his body being pressed onto the ground. Bloom'moss used her every power to keep the tom down. Ivory'hiss and River'lily had followed the StarClan cat and joined in too.

"**NO! NO!**" The tom's eyes widen in horror, listening the inaudible whispers of the she-cats in an attempt to calm him down. He couldn't let him go. He couldn't let the murderer of his only family get away from what he had done.

"**LOOK AT ME, YOU COWARD! LOOK AT ME!**"

He led out a painful scream of anger as he saw Ice'watcher turn into a gust of wind, floating away. The territory worsened when he lost the **control** he had for the silver tom, and that's when he realized what harm he had done to everyone else who didn't deserve it.

"Red'fang-.. please.." River'lily spoke to him in a quiet tone. "All we have is **you.**"

The words of his friend had eased the grieving, ethereal soul.

He took a few deep breaths as the sun began to disappear into the clouds, the anger in his body releasing itself and being driven along in the wind of pain. that surrounded the group of cats. The ground stopped shaking, and the tides lower. The territory was slowly growing back to normal, but the damage was irreparable.

All he heard were the painful cries of the sunset with the whispers of the she-cats who were there along the way.

Chapter **24**

He stare at the grave in front of him, decorated in dead flowers and rocks to keep the fallen tom warm during the winter, for it had been two moons since the territory nearly broke down.

The weather had gotten worse that Bloom'moss and Jade began migrating the cats up north where caves are common, and not blocked off. Prey is still decently abundant, but no one knows how long they'll live before time runs out. The void thickens into the valley as it slowly consumed every life form of this island. The brown tom didn't waver from the grating sound of ice forming onto his fur. His dimly lit eyes kept his entire body searing from the inner rage when staring to his grave again. Red'fang takes a paw and knead it on top of the dirt. The flowers revived itself, and the large branches sealed the grave tight.

After that, he just sat there, staring solemnly.

A long, rigid, and slender feather fell behind him. It had a barred pattern with black, dark brown, and white on them. He didn't catch the sight of the hawk until it takes a landing behind him, causing the tom to turn around and glare at it. He knew who was watching him, and he had a mouthful to say to the avian who slowly turns into a cat, the long-furred tabby that he often seen in his dreams. He expected a range of insults coming out of the she-cat's mouth, instead, she idled. It was very strange to him. "Got nothing to say?" Red'fang asked her in a slight defensive tone. Hawk'song stared with a blank face, her forehead wrinkling downward the moment her son says something. "I'm here to help you, is it too much to bear?"

"Not that I expect any from you." Red'fang shrugs her off, eying at the grave of his brother while blatantly ignoring her. This led the mother into becoming disgruntled with her son's manners, and forced him to look at her while sitting on the side of her youngest son's grave. It devastated her to see the bloody scene of whom she had grown attached to. Really, she could've done for both, but she

never found herself to cherish her oldest as her own. "How could you let him do these things on his own?" Her voice broke, the tears falling like the new rapids that replaced BeachClan's whole territory.

"He was the one who took the slash, Ma." The tom's brows furrowed when watching his mother hunker over his grave. "**And you let him!?**" She draws her claws, scraping the dirt of Blaze'light's grave. Her shrilling cries greatly annoyed the sunset who had enough of the she-cat's mess. "I couldn't stop him, even if I tried! **You** always have an **excuse** to blame **me**, and for what exactly?" The peace was fractured when he raised his voice at his mother. He hesitate on smashing his paws onto the ground, glancing at the desolate land around him. Hawk'song pauses, her stone barrier showed its cracks.

"I could blame you for ruining my body." She said, vindictively. "You should be thankful I gave you the life I could've had if I never met your father."

"The life I was **doomed** of from the start!" Red'fang yowled, his body blowing steam like an active volcano ready to burst. Hawk'song dismisses him by turning her head and to stare at the decor of her favored son's grave. "He was a kind a gentle soul, and you took his life away from him to pity **your** rage!" She hissed, her tail blocking the his way from getting close to Blaze'light's grave. Red'fang's bares his fangs at her, his tail swinging intensely "I never was like **him** in the first place. I wish I was if it meant to be **loved**, but you lacked that on **both** sides!"

"**You** don't know what love is, both of your fathers never learn to love what the world had given them. Instead, they took advantage, and killed those who **wronged** them. Is that what **you** want to be? To be **broken** like them!?"

He froze, the recollection of his rage were still left fresh to his mind. His position staggers for a moment. He could remember each tear was dropped from his eye, and the trauma of what could've been his lowest point if everyone had died in the fault of his uncontrolled anger. Still, he remembered those words of what River'lily had said, and what had happened all the way to the very beginning. Being the sunset was the wrong thing since he was raised to become a

weapon. He still became important to those who desire freedom, and to those who lost everything in the fault of those leaders who only wanted what was best for themselves.

Though, as deemed as the sunset, Red'fang will always find a way to rise.

His voice lowers into a chillier tone, like ice that cooled the lit fire. It lacked the malevolence and inner fury he once had for his past. "They **broke** everyone in their lives for their pride. I **broke** myself to protect them." He relaxes his posture, embracing the cold air that took over his entire body; he never weakened. Hawk'song found herself to be in a conflicted position, her ears flicked back as the past caught up to her. She broke down in silent cries that she could easily see her in him. Not Thorn, not Stone'star, herself.

"You act as if you're the only one who **bled** for this family." She murmured, her voice timid and weak. She wasn't the vengeful ghost she once was. "I never braced for another storm to happen when I had you." Her eyes watered, her voice barely inaudible from her grief. "I only loved Blaze'light because he made things easy for me. It's not that-.. I-.. **never** loved you. I just didn't know how to."

She then crawled across the grave, her shoulders rising like the sharp point of the mountains. Her eyes exposed her weakness, but her calm and reformed stance made her want to say the things that she despised if it were to anyone like her son. Her face of hatred shaped to something remarkable about her, and what her son never expected out of her. "You think surviving your fathers made you worse?" She asked him, who Red'fang clearly had nothing to say to that. He knew that it was really himself who had made those things worse, but he knew that from the start. "I know I'm not the victim." He simply responded.

"But you're the **hero.**" She said, her head now bowing down in a form of respect. "And you're my son. I broke you, just like how I was broken. **I** was the monster that you became."

Red'fang really looked at her, with his eyes dull, and him take a slow, long breath.

"Thanks for finally saying it." He responded, losing his bitterness for her. Still, there were scars on his heart that needed time to heal. "I don't expect a happy ending with you. You want me to be the hero? Fine." He steps aside, his body facing the white forest. His back turned away from the shadows that consumed him. "Let me be one on my own terms."

His tail curled before flicking freely onto the snowy ground, causing particles to move with the soft, quiet wind. Hawk'song accepted this, aware that their relationship that cannot be repaired after what she done. Still, she couldn't leave his future unanswered, she was there for a reason. Her eyes gaze at the grave, giving a glimpse to a fiery future ahead of the doomed territory. She sits down, and spoke one last thing to her son. "Let your light carry on, Red'fang. But let it be known that the darkness won't last forever. A star will always find a way to reborn."

The tom stopped, his head turning to stare at his mother. His face recoiled at first, thinking that it was probably a plan for StarClan to come back. He had already learned that there was no turning back to this, it was always his **destiny** to fail, and to learn. The lives of many will always outweigh the life of one.

However, it didn't stop one's light within him.

As Hawk'song fled off in her hawk form, the dirt above his grave began to move subtly.

Chapter **25**

He couldn't run away from his past even if he tried, he know what to do now, with the power that was given to him.

The past is what becomes reality. When the sun disappears, the void grows. Corruption had consumed the warriors' minds, they couldn't control what their body desired. It's what made Ice'watcher **stronger.**

In a quiet, blizzard night, The toms of the clan stayed up all night as a vigil to their latest medicine cat, Primrose'dawn. She-cats and kits were required to stay in the dens at all times, the apprentices weren't that lucky. The leading tom, Vulture'glide watched with his careful eyes. His breathing staggered a little, jumping at the sound of a branch falling. He and other fellow toms left their stances, and went outside to confront the eerie noise of a large beast roaming in the shadows. Vulure'glide, who hid behind a rock to protect himself from the harsh cold. "**Show yourself!**" He called, sensing a large beast due to the recent footprints they saw during dawn patrol.

Nothing was heard, only the sounds of the howling wind continued. The others were puzzled, and hesitant to step further into the abyss. The leading tom had other plans, and began to pressure those who falter. "Warriors! Go out and seek what's in trees." He ordered. Wolf'haze turns around with his eyes widening in the most obvious expression of fear. "I'm not stepping a single paw out of this cave! Did you not see what that tom is capable of!?" He shouted, causing further argument with others who were concerned about their own lives. "The clan depends on us whether you like it or not!" Vulture'glide spoke over the loud winds picking up, and with little ice appeared in his skin. "Go on, do what is best for us!"

"Fine!" Wolf'haze ran out, his legs dragging through the thick snow that instantly burn his paws. "But if I die, that's your fault!"

It was like tiny shards poking at his sensitive skin, and creating blood tracks throughout the white hills.

The white tiger took notice of Wolf'haze going deeper into his trap, where he lends his paw, leading the blue-eyed warriors who had been hungrily waiting. Many cats began to lurk when he wasn't looking, some clinging onto the trees with their large paws and their sharp claws that could pierce rocks. Their hind legs kick branches down and creaked the trees wanting to taunt him on what everyone believed to be his last night alive. The patrol followed Wolf'haze carefully, until noticing the shrills of many creatures above them. The warrior swiveled around in a panic trying to take control of the situation.

"I'm not scared of you!" He retorted, it was far too late when he said that.

A larger, distorted tom with dirty-brown fur clawed his way to the ground and pounced at Wolf'haze unexpectedly. The warrior quickly takes off running with no hesitation as many other cats he could recognize from both doomed clans charged at him with the speed that could be compared to a grizzly bear. They were large, blue-eyed vessels of Ice'watcher who controlled them in a flick of a paw. The warriors were still bothered by the lack of presence until Wolf'haze came out of the shadows, screaming. "**RUN!**"

The IceClan warriors emerged from their hiding spots with their own monstrous appearances. Vulture'glide stood up-front to protect one of the toms who were caught in a crossfire, only to be torn to shreds.

Meanwhile, in the underground of the cave, Jade could sense that there was trouble above them. This raised concerns knowing that Red'fang had been absent for a long time. The moon warrior turns to Bloom'moss in a panic. "Where is he?" She spoke to the ghost, who had no words on the tom's disappearance. "I have no clue, he's been gone for over a quarter-moon." She says, which made Jade angry. "A **Quarter-moon!?**" She yelled. "Ice'watcher could've taken over us in seconds, what do you mean he's gone!?"

"I can't watch over him like I used to, he'll be needing to make his own decisions." Bloom'moss spoke to the she-cat in a stern tone. "It's what the ritual asks of him."

"Forget the ritual!" Jade leaves the underground, running to the top of the cave as she yelled. "The patrols are **dying**, gather **every** warrior!"

Bloom'moss watched as the moon warrior exits the underground, she could hear a stirring of the other members who had to stay in be warm. Everyone had no choice but to fight now that this war is meant for them to fend for themself without any spiritual inconvenience. River'lily, Ivory'hiss, Mushroom'paw, and Jacob, who were in the medicine den, see Jade run off into the thick snow. Her paws began to hover, and she makes way to the forest as the snow began to fall. As the ravage continued on, it was getting bloodier the moment the moon warrior makes her debut to the battle.

The warriors were able use their environment against IceClan, but there was pain knowing that they're killing one of their own to protect themselves. It always been like this since the awakening of StarClan. To each cat fight one of their own to protect their clan, only to be met with guilt and trauma for the rest of their life. It was a punishment worse than rotting in the dark forest, with their claws causing bloodshed to every command they make.

Sometimes, they were even questioning if SunClan were like StarClan as well.

Jade flew headfirst to a crowd of warriors fighting for nothing. She uses the force around her to separate those who were caught, mainly the patrol of SunClan who she tried her hardest to protect. She creates a force around her that pulled the snow over, and then created a snowslide that were like waves of the ocean, flooding the forest and trapping the enemies underneath. It was no use to where she could save those who were wrapped around Ice'watcher's claws. No doubt she felt emotionless about them, and she nearly wavers when she saw remnants of MurkClan and BeachClan's cats. The guilt is unimaginable.

Then, everything becomes silent. She is met with the howling winds of lost nature, the winter that never ends. The snow catches with the wind and circles around her with the use of her manipulation to it. She desperately looks around when hearing the laughs of

Ice'watcher, she remained on guard for every trick he had in his paws. "Why don't **you** reveal yourself and to the lost souls that was sent to **die** by your command!" She yelled to the empty void that merged with the snow, and draining what is left of nature itself.

"**You killed them,**" A raspy voice responded to her distress. "**And here I thought the true warriors should be loyal to the code, right?**"

"What?" Jade's body loosens when the voice whispered to both of her ears, causing her body to feel a sharp pain on her back. "What does it have to do with any of that? You **killed** innocents, many of them!"

"**Those were the cats you despised of because of the ones up above. The ones who believe they had all the answers. You and me aren't too different.**" He appears in front of her, his eyes were like the blue moon that was once granted by peace. However, underneath a silvery, blue streak falling from the snowy skies were bloodshed that stained the ground, the trees, and the nearby river. For the first time, she feared for her life. Her heart stopped beating, and her entire body was petrified. Ice'watcher didn't do anything, yet. He only stared, with his presence becoming prominent. The trees bending, and the ground trembling by a wave of void taking over.

"What have **you** done?" Jade's voice is a shaky whisper, her eyes flickered like dimming street lights that was still on during a harsh blizzard. She began to slowly breathe again. Her body trembled, her head dropping. Still, a soft glow remained in the crescent of her forehead. "**What have I done?**" Ice'watcher shifted close to the moon warrior, who was confined by the ice slowly growing onto her wrists, sticking her to the ground. "**What I did, was freedom. What I've did, was a sacrifice that me and you are familiar with.**" He tilts his head, inspecting her like decomposing prey who was torn by wolves coming from the scars on her body. "**The sun is nothing more than a star, a star that you've promised to never follow.**"

Jade noticed the ice growing from her arms and back, her body began to weaken. Her form was forcefully pinned onto the ground.

She didn't make any move to fight back, her pupils were more focused of a red light in the sky. Ice'watcher saw this as her surrender, and what is now SunClan's surrender as well. He could see the warriors behind her, weakly crawling with their claws dragging onto the ground. To make his ego touch the sky, she lowers her head, amusing the tom.

"**How pathetic of you!**" Ice'watcher laughed, facing to the skies as he led out a victory cry. "**I have all of you! Nothing more can the stars rule me any longer!**" He paced around, it was almost childish of him to be seen like this. But he didn't care, there was no one to judge. He finally got what he wanted, and he'll forever claim this territory as his for the rest of his life. Jade was patient, however. She used all of her strength to say those last words. "Never celebrate too early, your life is almost beginning to shine." She spoke in an oddly enthusiastic tone. "Life will always find a way, you aren't safe whether you believe not."

"**She-cats don't speak.**" The tom snaps at her, offended by the moon warrior even speaking to him. "**You're saying too much for someone who's going to die, alone.**"

"Could be true." She shrugged. "Stars can die, but the light won't." Her claws clench the ice, her pupils dilated, seeing that the red light is close. Ice'watcher wasn't even noticing due to his distraction. "As long as there is light on the other side, a **star** will find its way to be born again."

"**That's horse dirt, everything you said is horse dirt!**" He retorted, backing away from her as he stared in disgust. "You can say that to **him.**" Jade looks above the silver tom's head, watching with glee. "To who?" The tom says, before turning around to see a large falling star that is targeted towards him. The red flames spiraled into a large sun that began to warm the island with the flames that followed Red'fang down to his main target. The snow stops abruptly, the terrain began to shift. Ice'watcher quickly stumbled back, his eyes widening in fear. The heat melted the ice off of her, giving her the chance to run off and focus on the fallen warriors and SunClan.

As the fiery red star roams close to the ground, Ice'watcher took off

running. His grip over the territory fell. Instead of embracing the void, he found himself to be running away from the light that is clearly going after him. Red'fang's arms stretched forward and snatched the tom to the sky. The silver tom's legs and arms dangled like caught prey into the talons of a hawk. Ice'watcher yelled and clawed at the sunset, who felt nothing. They flew across the territory, the silver tom's blue light grew and merged with the red flames, creating the color purple that lit the dark skies.

The claws burned onto the skin of both cats, they were like the star trying to find ends meet by unraveling all the pain that was now behind him. Instead of focusing in the past, it was for Red'fang to seek and walk into the future. His power over his brother led him across the valley, and to drop him right at the empty SaguaroClan camp. With much power and weight from his paws, Ice'watcher was thrown and plunged onto the ground, creating a large crack in the middle of the dry clearing. The split spread to the edge of the valley that caused most of SaguaroClan's territory to collapse into the growing void. The silver tom grunted in extreme pain, his body numb coming from his backside.

Red'fang flew around the camp, before lowering himself in front of his half-brother. He wanted to do everything he planned of when he faced this tom that tormented his entire life, and even took the life of Blaze'light in front of his face. He would've thought the tom had more energy to continue the fight, but to his surprise, he didn't do anything. It made the tom question if Ice'watcher had also broke himself to protect those from Stone'star in the first place. He was nothing more than a horrible tom that had ruin lives, but it made him wonder the things that made him become who he is.

Nevertheless, he felt the light from within, his markings responding to the essence lingering above all clans that took the form of an orb. The feeling is overwhelming since he didn't know how to take this power handed by the ancestors of eternal radiance. He kept his eyes closed, and focused on one thing only, was to bring them back. He closed his eyes, not noticing the nearest bush rumbling behind him, with eyes staring out and focusing at Ice'watcher who began to stir and move. The sunset levitated above the ground, the patterns of his body radiating with the orb who grew bigger as he floated close

to it.

Ice'watcher moves from the rigid rocks, the wind beginning to act up as he takes stance from his fallen place. The fire was sparked in his cold heart, his claws dragging along the dirt. He then screamed as he prepared to pounce and do what he wished on doing long ago.

"**CONSIDER THIS MY RETRIBUTION!**"

Just before Red'fang could do anything further, he turns around to see Ice'watcher leaping at him with his claws out. Suddenly, River'lily emerges from the push and shoved the silver tom away from him. The two cats fell through the large gap of SaguaroClan, right into the birthplace of the void. The orb disappeared when Red'fang's focus was off. His focus was out of the way as he quickly descends to darkness, yelling at River'lily who had stood up for him, as it always had been since kit-hood.

"**HOLD ON!**"

The void began to spread further, and then to the skies. The clouds darkened intensely, Red'fang hurried down to the deep abyss with his heart pumping like never before. He could visibly see River'lily fighting the silver tom, but his fear increased when he noticed his brother taking advantage of her, and creating open wounds from old scars onto her body. She was underneath Ice'watcher who gripping both of her hips and positioned her head to be facing downward. She couldn't believe what was happening right now, she was dying for him, something that was the last of Red'fang's thoughts. His arms stretched out in clawing his half-brother's back, the tears flooding his eye lids when he saw how terribly starved and weak she was.

By good thinking, Red'fang maneuvers both of their bodies to crash to the rigid, rough surface with vines. It tangled over River'lily's arms, causing the others to get stuck as well. Their bodies drooped over the cave of the shrine. Ice'watcher was still determined, and clung onto the edge with the use of his CavernClan genes. He was like a tiger, fighting for his life now that he was defeated off of his throne. He stretched over to River'lily, gripping her by the shoulder

and pulling her close. "**You ruined everything!**" His paws kneaded her throat, glaring at Red'fang who clawed at his face, leaving the tom to yowl and release.

"Don't touch her!" He hissed. "I'll make sure **you** won't breathe again for how much damage you've done to everyone!"

"**You're gutless!**" He cried the same words he said to him that night, his own tears falling from his eyes when attempting to fight for his own desires of freedom from StarClan. "**To kill me is to kill your soul! You're nothing without me; the clans will be nothing about me!**" He swipes his claws at the vines, while Red'fang let River'lily climb onto his back, and then on the ledge of a lone cave above them. "You're **wrong.**" The tom stare at Ice'watcher with a deadly glare, his empathy had instantly changed and revolving back to his early wishes of seeing him burn. "I **am**, what I **am**. What you are, is **death** in my eyes!"

"**NO!**"

Ice'watcher makes one last move, his claws piercing Red'fang's shoulder and creating long scratches to drag him down to die with him. His vocal cords were shattered by the grief and anger he had for everyone and everything. A brown tuxedo would jump off the edge, shoving River'lily out of the way and jumping at the silver tom, the weight strong enough for both of them to fall into the shrine cave. River'lily screams her name. "**DANI!**"

Red'fang was shocked enough to see his love and the cat he hated to fall in front of him. He yowled and clawed the vines from his limbs to fall and save the she-cat before it was too late. His paw reached out to her as his last resort. Dani, on the other hand looked emotionless. Her claws poked through Ice'watcher's belly, as if she was angry for how the tom had tormented her mate after all this time. She never understood then, but she finally did now. There was no life for her on the other side, but she hoped that those two cats could find their way back home.

With one final move to seal her fate, and reclaim her peace, she closes her eyes. The two cats were slammed onto the ground, causing the cave to shake and the rocks fall onto them. It crushed

both cats when the stalactites fell with the shrine breaking apart. It made Red'fang's heart stop when he hovered over the crumbling cave, seeing Dani's bloody arm touching the cold ground. His body weakened, and his limbs had a stinging pain like never before. He wanted to either cry or scream out her name, but even those things could trigger something worse in him.

He watched in shock, finding all those memories to be nothing but the past. He could've wished to prove his act of bravery, and to prove his love for her. His heart slammed onto his chest, paining him and causing everything to break down. He didn't know what to do, the ritual was put to a pause by grief and unstable emotions that drove him to anger, but the kind of anger only to himself, and not at others. What can it be all worth if the cat he wanted vengeance on had already died with her?

There was no answer.

It was all but a question that couldn't make it enough for his peace. He could feel the void taking over, with the skies turning black, and the light forever dimming.

This is where it ends.

With his eyes closing, he waited for the caves to collapse on him, where the fight is put into a halt forever.

Until, he hears a voice of a familiar tom moving from ear to ear. The silence turning into murmurs of an ancient melody coming from the lost cats who died under the sunlight. Instead of the cries that shaped his past, it was the voices of hope calling his name. A brother who roamed in the sky like a rising star, calling his name like never before. It was like a kit begging his kin to play a game of moss ball.

"**Red'fang! Red'fang!**"

The tom raises his head to see a blurry vision. He closes his eyes once again and saw a roaming light that created a streak. A number of ghosts following him to the sky and spiraling into a circle. Red'fang's hopelessness was replaced with curiosity. He floated up

to the gap where he sees the clouds subtly parting. The tom pees his head out to see a tom that he never thought would even come back alive. It was **Blaze'light** in his new form as a traveling star, his flexible body turning to fire as he awaited for his brother to rise with him.

Red'fang went starry-eyed, the symbols on his body glowing with the slow rhythm of the ancestors who had found their home, following the roaming star with determination. There, the tom realized something above him and Blaze'light. They were the vessels of the brothers of light, with their first and true life being lost a long time ago when they were killed from different circumstances. But their memory and presence was protected by the sunset and the sunrise. They were meant to live forever in their new forms where they were destined to bring those that were lost, back to the nest.

The remaining cats poked their heads out to see a dancing light with the white ghosts waiting for the sunset. The tom's body tremored by an overwhelmed feeling, not by anger, but hope. To see himself giving up for going this far, was failing both River'lily and Dani. He needed to complete the ritual and save those who suffered alongside with him. For them, for everyone. The sunset rose from his form, with River'lily and other who watches him flying up to the skies, with the two brothers dancing like fireflies in the dark. They were in disbelief, was this truly happening? Were they finally being freed from the consumption of corruption and misuse of power?

All was heard is joyous laughter of those that were lost. Even the cats who died in battle rose with them to reach the highest peak of the skies.

Red'fang turns into a streak of light, twirling and spiraling into circles. Ice'watcher rose from the large rocks to see the two brothers dancing in the skies. The ghosts sung and created a white light that separated the clouds and revealed the blue skies above the island. It was like a blue ocean above them, with the edge of the mist turning into the color of pearly white. The brown tom's fur turns white, as well as his brother who began to circling each other in opposite sides. Red'fang was at the bottom, and Blaze'light was at the top.

Together, they created the ultimate sun with the touch of noses.

Their bodies merging into one another, creating a blazing sphere with long white streaks of light creating a blast wave that tore the void up into shreds, and rebirthing the life of nature. The grass changing to long streaks of green and gold, with the ocean turning as blue as the skies above them, and the territory repairing itself as the void was sealed into the deepest cracks of earth.

The void traveled to the cave where the collapsed shrine is. Ice'watcher could barely run due to his injury that crushed and limit his body from moving away from his fate. The tendrils wrapped around his body as he was sunk into the deep cracks. The chaos died with him, his paws reaching out to the lively world as his last attempt. But it was all too late, his body began to tear apart, and his screams were muted by the black liquid forcefully suffocating him to the very end of his tyranny once and for all.

The sky turns white.

Epilogue

I HOPE YOU FIND YOUR WAY HOME.

It felt like he was breathing again.

A new flame rises in the sky, displaying all of its glory to a new land of lush growth and many animals that roamed in the meadows of all shades of green and gold. It is green-leaf.

The soft wind nudged the brown branches with leaves creating a soft rattle above the cats who hunted and bathed in the clear waters close to the sandy shore. The golden light broke through the canopy, shining on the back of a warrior who took a stroll in the dirt path. Red'fang's nostrils bristled from the fresh smell of flowers and growth on the sidelines. The bitter smell is no more, now that the bodies of the lost, even animals who lived in the past, were put in their respective graves with distinctive leaves to remember them. Their spirits lived on to support the cycle of life, to create new memories for the survivors to embrace themselves in.

This was something he was never used in seeing. It wasn't perfect since the damage is still present when he passed BeachClan's old territory. What was broken, made anew to those who lost their camp. The waterfall had made a good site for dens to be placed, and for the cats to learn the way of water. He took a careful look at the cats who hunted near the ocean, and seeing what appeared to be ships passing by the island. Even the two-legs were in awe since it never used to be this sunny. It did made the tom fear that the two-legs were going to start roaming their dirty feet onto the dirt that is rightfully claimed by SunClan itself, that's where the big question comes in.

Where will they go if that happens?

To search for a new land would've took a lot out of him, but he knew now was to make things right, and not let the cats of the island to suffer from what had started it all. It was best to cherish this place the last time before letting the cats grow on their own terms, and rebuild what was long forgotten. He could see the cats creating their own clans in fairness of their independence, and their longing for a change. He had no power to let them lose that freedom, its what all the suffering had build up to. The worries are still evident in his face, but all he had to do was to take a long inhale, to smell the verdant grass and flowers that wrapped around his arms.

Everything was going to be okay.

"Think fast!" The ginger tom ran at his brother, with the smoke following his burning tail that became the light that refused to darken. Red'fang felt a quick pain on his back that caused him to roll over and fall onto the ground. "Ow!" The tom hissed, pawing his brother's face who lies on the opposite side of him, laughing. "You're not too vigilant for someone who calls themself the leader." He sneered, stepped on the larger tom's tail. Red'fang wanted to get irritated at Blaze'light, but at the same time, it was something that he missed from time to time.

"You're lucky I'm in a better mood today." The tom retorted, covering his face with his large tail. "Or I would've kicked you in the hind for touching a legend such as me." He snickered with his own sarcastic remark, as if mocking the cats he had met in the past. Blaze'light's eyes rolled at his statement. He paws at his brother's face, giggling uncontrollably while at loss of breath. "Two legends sitting at the same place, isn't life beautiful?" He turns his head at his brother, whose expression began to falter a bit.

What did he think about life? After all, he wasn't handed the life he sometimes wished. He saw the world changing in the eyes of the sunset, so why haven't he proved it himself in his own perspective? He never truly wanted all of this to happen, but it did. It was either the stupidest or smartest decision he had ever done. Life is what he made of it, so did Blaze'light, Nash, Jade, Dani, and River'lily. He couldn't change for what he is, and the responsibility his identity holds is what save himself from becoming like his brother. He was

making the world capable then what it was in the last life. "It is." He responded in an eerie quiet tone, staring out to the skies with clouds that were the waves of an ocean. "It really is."

A black figure appears above him, her eyes were as bright as the crystals hidden in caves. Jade had white flowers stuck onto her fur, she had just finished decorating graves. Red'fang noticed her, and purred at the she-cat's eyes that never once looked away from him. She seems to be happy, but she only showed things a lot for differently than others. She could sense something between each other, but it was best to put that aside for now. "Are you just going to stand over me like a doe?" Red'fang jeered, making the she-cat amused with his response. "No, but River'lily wants to talk to you."

Blaze'light's ears perks up at the moon warrior's words, even Red'fang who found hesitation to this fact. He nodded at her, and dragged himself up from the dirt. He departed the area, leaving the two cats at peace, while he makes one last battle.

Finding her at the tallest peak of the mountain was hard, he breathed his life out as he collapsed right next to her, his heart beating in stress and exhaustion. River'lily heard a large thump, and turns to Red'fang who laid beside her, like a lazy bear. "Dramatic much?" She says, her tail drifting across his muzzle, causing him to sneeze. "You chose the worst location for this, you know that? I don't even know why I'm still friends with you." He curled close to the she-cat's body, his body vibrated in comfortable purrs. His tail wraps around her lower body, with his eyes have the look of satisfaction being around her. Their relationship was starting to improve just six moons after everything had happened.

River'lily, felt a skip in her heart. The affection from him was rather rare, but never forgotten by her. Their past memories roaming in the territory like dumb apprentices were forever bonded to her mind. It gave the most pleasant memories, she was glad to reconcile with him after Ice'watcher's defeat. Unfortunately, all good times come to an end. She sighs, hoping that the tom could take the news maturely. "I'm leaving." She said, causing the tom to drop his jaw after quickly taking on the unexpected news. "Why?" Red'fang asked, his body separating from him just a little. "Did something happen? Are you okay?"

"No." River'lily squinted her eyes, her tail moving in a slow, wavy manner. "It's just that time is changing. Sometimes, we need to move on to be better."

"But I've **been** better," Red'fang slowly pushes his paw on top of her tail, his own tail swishing out of conflict. "..for you. I know we truly haven't connected-.. but.. are you sure?" He asked, his body becoming heavy enough to not leave her sight, he didn't know how to really react with the news other than sadness. River'lily lowers her head, resting on Red'fang's forehead. "I'm sure. I'll be catching the next ship in about a few sunrises, so will Mushroom'paw." She says, purring so she could comfort him for the last time. Red'fang knew this would come to their long relationship, he didn't want to lose the spark that was made long ago. It was like missing a part of him that he couldn't keep ahold of.

He then pushes himself up to a sitting position. His right arm wrapped around her shoulder like a hug. River'lily nuzzles him underneath his chin. "I'll miss you." His voice murmured, his paws digging onto her head like a kit losing its friend. River'lily had her eyes close, feeling the embrace of what she wanted out of him. To find himself again, and maybe he'll know where he belonged. She then bitterly separates from him, the tears stirring between her baggy eye lids that is quite rare for Red'fang to see her cry.

Before she steps off from the steep rocks of the mountain, she turns to him and said one last thing.

"I forgive you."

Red'fang's sadness died down when she said that. He didn't know how to act, but he knew that she had found her way home. It was bittersweet to see everything change, and die in front of him. But that light will never fade as long as it guide others to find their way in a dark tunnel.

All he could see was the sunset in front of him, shining its way through darkness.

A white feather falls behind him, only to abruptly change black as it reaches the ground.